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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

The Dark Ages: a Series of Essays, intended to illustrate the State of Religion and Literature in the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth Centuries. By the Rev. S. R. Maitland, &c. 8vo. Rivingtons.

This volume is a reprint of a series of papers which have appeared successively in the British Magazine, and which (understood to be written by Mr. Maitland) had excited considerable attention: we do not therefore consider it necessary to take the whole book into review. In a preface now added, Mr. Maitland disclaims any intention of recommending or advocating the revival of monachism; his object has been to relieve the system of the Middle Ages from what he believes to be misrepresentations and unmerited blame. As might be expected from a gentleman of Mr. Maitland's reputation, it is a book of much talent, exhibits extensive reading in a class of writers generally neglected, and is written in an agreeable and vigorous style. The subject treated involves contending opinions which now agitate society, and into which we are little inclined to enter, - opinions which become so far exaggerated in the hands of their supporters or opponents that it is difficult to keep a moderate course. Some writers, perfectly ignorant of the history of the Middle Ages, have spoken of historical personages, especially churchmen, with much injustice. In exposing their misstatements, Mr. Maitland has given much information re-lating to the writings, opinions, and character of many of the most distinguished churchmen of the Middle Ages; but we are not sure that in so doing he has not, by presenting a very one-sided view of the subject, given as distorted a view of historical truth as the writers whom he controverts. There can be no doubt that during one period many benefits were derived from monachism. A monastery was the only secure refuge for learning and piety. That there were among the monks men of profound and true piety, no one can doubt; but it may fairly be asked, Were they such because they were monks? If we would give a correct view of the spirit of paganism, or of the spirit of Mohammedanism, we should not confine ourselves to collecting together the finest senti-ments of Socrates, or Plato, or other Grecian philosophers, or of the Arabian writers; but we should examine the state of society, particularly of the lower orders, the connexion between them and the more educated part of the community, the behaviour and character of those whose business it was to instruct them, and a number of other important questions. So, in examining the spirit of monachism, it is not sufficient to shew that there were pious men, and learned men, and that the monks read the Bible,-all these are things both well known and necessary. Wherever leisure is given for study and the contemplation of the Scriptures, we shall be sure to have learned and pious men. But a point of far greater importance is, to know how far and in what

they attempted to draw them from their ignorance; what, in fact, was their influence upon the state of society. Divine truth was not in-tended to be confined to the few, but to be communicated equally to all mankind. We fear that, when viewed in this light, monachism will cut but a poor figure. We have heard it observed that the Irish Roman Catholic clergy are not answerable for the ignorant superstitions of the Irish peasantry, that they are an enlightened set of men, and that they disavow the corruptions in religion which are ascribed to them. The latter part of this assertion may be perfectly true; they may disavow superstitions before those who are enlightened and learned; but do they disavow them before those who are ignorant? do they endeavour to draw the latter from their dark superstitions? or do they not rather encourage them to continue in their errors? This is, as it appears to us, exactly the question of monachism in the Dark Ages. During the period of which Mr. Maitland writes, learning, knowledge, piety, were kept within the grasp of a few, in a language which they could read (indeed, the language was of little importance, for the mass of society was not even taught to read written characters): and we think therefore, that, after all, they may truly be termed Dark Ages. We beg it to be understood that we by no means think Mr. Maitland wishes in any respect to mis-represent these Dark Ages, and we consider that he has produced a most interesting volume; but the truth of history suffers much by the taking up of particular questions in the spirit of an advocate; and we fear that by thus offering to the public merely what may be said on one side of the subject, a writer is, on one hand, quite unintentionally leading many readers to form a false judgment, while on the other hand, by provoking the advocates of the other side of the question to answer with an equally one-sided view in another sense, he is contributing to plunge matter of fact into greater confusion than ever.

It is certainly a question seriously to be considered, whether the piety and learning of a few men were owing to the spirit of monachism, or independent of it. That learning and science increased with wonderful rapidity, as soon as it had escaped out of the hands of the monks. is certain. If we take at any period, on as near a calculation as we can, the number of monks living at any given moment of time, we fear that there would be found an exceedingly small number who were, as far as can be discovered, employed in any useful pursuits-we mean, in study and literature, in religious or scientific instruction, or the like,-and a very large portion in mere idleness, or in pursuits quite at variance with their profession. Even as a body, they were too frequently employed in the acquisition and preservation of their worldly estates, and that by means which were not always honest. How was the literary part of the monastery employed? It is a fact now too well known, that an extremely large portion of the charters and legal titles of the monastic estates through the ages of which Mr. Maitland

Maitland founds an interesting part of his book, that of Ingulf of Croyland, is an evident forgery, composed apparently for the purpose of cheating, in a court of law, a party who brought claims, or defended rights, against Croyland Abbey.

These reflections arise rather out of the subject than out of the book before us. We look upon these matters with our literary taste and our love for historical truth, and would like to see them treated fairly and dispassionately. In the warmth of party feeling, every one forgets the facts which tell against his own views. We would say a word on another subject which has been much canvassed,-the destruction of buildings and the destruction of books. The behaviour of the reformers on this point has certainly been much exaggerated, and, as we think, wrong consequences deduced from it. The destruction of monuments is a circumstance which has accompanied all great changes in society. How much of Grecian art and architecture, so perfectly beautiful above all modern art, perished beneath the hand of the destroyer in the conversion of the Roman empire to Christianity! How much that was rich and elegant in Moorish architecture was destroved by the monkish conquerors in Spain and elsewhere! Yet the fragments of Phidias or memory of Zeuxis do not make us dissatis-fied with Christianity, any more than the splendour of the Alhambra makes us regret the overthrow of Mohammedan power. The destruction of the castles followed the extinction of feudalism, in the same manner, as the demolition of monasteries was the consequence of the abolition of the system to which they belonged. When the monks found a Roman or Grecian statue, they destroyed it, under the ignorant impression that it was a pagan idol; and similarly the first reformers in their zeal broke the monuments of Romanism, as images pertaining to idolatry. Mr. Maitland has several chapters on the destruction of manuscripts. We fear that the greatest intentional destruction of books of value was perpetrated deliberately by the monks themselves, and that in the best ages of monachism. Not to speak of the erasure of valuable historical, literary, and scientific works, for the purpose of using the parchment for books of a much less usefuland interesting description, we will merely advert to the ravages of the binder, the great destroyer of manuscripts after the Reformation. We are of opinion, founded upon an extensive examination of facts, that few manuscripts of any importance perished at the Reformation. The published notes of Leland shew into what a complete state of dilapidation the monastic libraries had fallen at the time of the dissolution; and we are inclined to believe that all the manuscripts he saw, except manuscripts of no value and some which have perished by unavoidable accidents, are still in existence. In looking into the bindings of some hundreds of printed folios bound in the age following the Reformation, and in which we almost always find fragments of manuscripts, we have not discovered more than once or twice a scrap shape the monks communicated what they knew treats, particularly in England, are gross for which could make us regret the loss of the to the ignorant part of the population; how far geries. Nay, the very history on which Mr.

of much importance. It is in the remains of older monastic bindings that we learn how so many valuable manuscripts have disappeared.

We have been led almost unwittingly into these observations. We look upon the subject as one purely belonging to history; and we agree entirely in the opinion Mr. Maitland expresses in his preface, of the impossibility of reviving the monastic system in the present age. It would be as easy to restore the feudal system itself.

The Crock of Gold: a Rural Novel. By M. F. Tupper, author of "Proverbial Philosophy." Pp. 342. London, Bentley.

WHEN the author of Proverbial Philosophy turned his mind to narrative and connected story (see Review, Lit. Gaz., No. 1389), something out of the common line was to be expected. This rural novel is accordingly a composition sui generis, almost disdaining analogy with any pre-existent production. It is hardly a novel, it is hardly a string of philosophical observations, it is hardly an essay on mistaken principles and practices, it is hardly a satire upon social wrongs or errors;-but it is a combination of all these, displaying great acuteness, the best of feeling, and the most ingenuous and forcible way of putting every truth and every questionable fact, embraced within its scope, before the eye and under the considera-tion of the reader. There is no trick of authorship about it; no intricacy of plot to be developed; but rather a transparent simplicity from first to last, which conceals nothing, and consequently leaves nothing to find out. And the style is nearly as unique as the manner, including singular anticipative reflections and apostrophes; so that altogether the volume must be thinkingly perused to be fully understood and justly appreciated.

The main moral of the tale is, that the first,

even slight, surrender of the soul to a vice is sure to lead to greater degeneracy, and, probably, to the ultimate ruin of the party, plunged, like a physical body ever accelerating in the fall, into the gulf of guilt and crime. The Crock of Gold causes a double wreck; but in the one case a salvation is wrought, whilst in the other the issue is deeply tragical and fatal. The two other matters chiefly brought forward illustrate the condition of landlord and tenant, with their intermediate agents; and the legal problem, how far council are justified in screening the criminal, often at the expense of inno-cence, and protecting frauds which doom the

just to beggary.

But we will neither investigate these difficulties nor analyse the story. Suffice it to say, that Roger Acton, a labourer, is the hero, with a well-drawn wife, an excellent as well as beautiful daughter, and less promising son by a former marriage. A murder at the hall, and singular events, throw the crock of gold into his possession; and on the consequences hinge all the rest. Having mentioned the son Tom's doubtfulness in prospect, we should remark that it resulted less from his own character than from his intimacy with a poacher, the description of whom may afford a fair idea of Mr. Tupper's powers of portraiture. The family of Acton are in their humble hut at night, and almost supperless :-

" A sudden knock at the door here startled the whole party, and Mary Acton, bustling up, drew the bolt, to let in-first, a lurcher, one rover to wit, our gaunt ember-loving friend of chapter ii.; secondly, Thomas Acton, full flush, who carried the old musket on his shoulder,

smock; and thirdly, Ben Burke, a personage of no small consequence to us, and who therefore deserves some specific introduction. Big Ben, otherwise Black Burke, according to the friendship or the enmity of those who named him, was a huge, rough, loud, good-humoured, dare-devil sort of an individual, who lived upon what he considered common rights. His dress was of the mongrel character, a well-imagined cross between a ploughman's and a sailor's; the bottle-green frock of the former, patternstitched about the neck as ingeniously as if a tribe of Winconsin squaws had tailored it,-and mighty fishing-boots, vast as any French postilion's, acting as a triton's tail to symbolise the latter: a red cotton handkerchief (dirty red of course, as all things else were dirty, for cleanliness had little part in Ben,) occupied just now the more native region of a halter; and a rusty fur cap crowned the poacher; I repeat it,-crowned the poacher; for in his own estimation, and that of many others too, Ben was, if not quite an emperor, at least an Agamemnon, a king of men, a natural human monarch; in truth, he felt as much pride in the title Burke the Poacher (and with as great justice, too, for aught I know), as Ali-Hamet-Ghee-the-Thug eastwards, or William-of-Normandy-the-Conqueror westwards, may be thought respectively to have cherished on the score of their murderous and thievish surnames. There was no small good, after all, in poor Ben, and a mountain of allowance must be flung into the scales to counterbalance his deficiencies. However coarse, and even profane, in his talk, (I hope the gentle reader will excuse me alike for eliding a few elegant extracts from his common conversation, and also for reminding him characteristically, now and then, that Ben's language is not entirely Addisonian,) however rough of tongue and dissonant in voice, Ben's heart will be found much about in the right place; nay, I verily believe it has more of natural justice, human kindness, and right sympathies in it, than are to be found in many of those hard and hollow cones that beat beneath the forty-guinea waistcoats of a Burghardt or a Buckmaster. Ay, give me the fluttering inhabitant of Ben Burke's cowskin vest; it is worth a thousand of those stuffed and artificial denizens, whose usual vest is figured satin and cut velvet. Ben stole-true-he did not deny it; but he stole nought but what he fancied was wrongfully withheld him: and, if he took from the rich, who scarcely knew he robbed them, he shared his savoury booty with the poor, and fed them by his daring. Like Robin Hood of old, he avenged himself on wanton wealth, and frequently redressed by it the wrongs of penury. Not that I intend to break a lance for either of them, nor to go any lengths in excusing; slight extenuation is the limit for prudent advocacy in these cases. Robin Hood and Benjamin Burke were both of them thieves; bold men; bad men, if any will insist upon the bad; they sinned against law, and order, and Providence; they dug rudely at the roots of social institutions; they spoke and acted in a dangerous fashion about rights of men and community of things. But set aside the statutes of Foresting and Venery, disfranchise pheasants, let it be a cogent thing that poverty and riches approach the golden mean somewhat less unequally, and we shall not find much of criminality either in Ben or Robin. For a general idea, then, of our poaching friend:-he is a gigantic, black-whiskered, humoursome, ruddy mortal, full of strange oaths, who carried the old musket on his shoulder, which we really must not print, and bearded too; for she did fight—ay, and conquered; and and seemed to have something else under his like the pard; and he tumbles in amongst our miscrable Roger, now in full possession of those

humble family party with,- Bless your honest heart, Roger; what makes you look so sodden? I'm a lord, if your eyes a'n't as red as a hedgehog's; and all the rest o' you, too; why, you seem to be pretty well merry as mutes. Ha! I see what it is, added Ben, pouring forth a benediction on their frugal supper; 'it's that precious belly-ache porridge that's a giving you all the 'flensy. Tip it down the sink, dame, will you now, and trust to me for better. Your Tom here, Roger, 's a lad o' mettle, that he is; ay, and that old iron o' yours as true as a compass; and the pheasants would come to it, all the same as if they had been loadstoned. Here, dame, pluck the fowl, will you: drop 'em, Tom.' And Thomas Acton flung upon the table a brace of fine cock pheasants."

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Neither the author (we presume) nor his critic (certainly) intend to encourage poachers or poaching; but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the temptations to commit this offence, and the mode by which it is too generally visited by the possessors of game, in their judicial capacities, is a fruitful and frightful source of extensive misery throughout the land. They fill our workhouses and our gaols with wretchedness and felony. They lead to the frequent violation of all law and justice; and they aggravate more than aught else the feelings of hatred and revenge with which the poor

regard the rich.

"Tis true, 'tis pity; pity 'tis, 'tis true."

Great preserves are the nurseries for prisons, penitentiaries, and Botany Bay. But we must go to another theme,-the effect of his sudden acquisition of wealth upon the exemplary Roger Acton and his immediate circle :-

" The utter dislocation of all home comforts occupied the foremost rank. True,-in comparison with the homes of affluence and halls of luxury,-those comforts may have formerly seemed few and far between; yet still the angel of domestic peace not seldom found a rest within the cottage. Not seldom? always: if sweet-eyed Grace be such an angel, thatever-abiding guest, full of love, duty, piety, and cheerfulness. But now, after long-enduring anguish, vexed in her righteous soul by the shocking sights and sounds of the drunkard and his parasites (for all the idle vagabonds about soon flocked around rich Acton, and were freely welcome to his reckless prodigality), Grace had been forced to steal away, and seek refuge with a neighbour. Here was one blessing the less. Another wretched change was in the wife. Granted, Mary Acton had not ever been the pink of politeness, the violet of meekness, nor the rose of entire amiability: but if she were a scold, that scolding was well meant; and her irate energies were incessantly directed towards cleanliness, economy, quiet, and other notabilia of a busy housewife. She did her best to keep the hovel tidy, to make the bravest show with their scanty chattels, to administer discreetly the stores of their frugal larder, and to recompense the good-man returning from his hard day's work with much of rude joy and bustling kindness. But now, after the first stupor of amazement into which the crock and its consequences threw her, Poll Acton grew to be a Fury: she raged and stormed, as well she might, at filth and discomfort in her home, at nauseous dregs and noisome fumes, at the orgy still kept up, day by day, and night by night, through the length of that first foul week, which succeeded the fortunate discovery. And not in vain she raged and stormed,-and fought too; for she did fight-ay, and conquered : and joys which he had longed for at the casement of Hurstley Hall, was glad to betake himself to the bench at Bacchus's, whither he withdrew his ragged regiment. Thus, that crock had spoilt all there was to spoil in the temper and conduct of the wife. Look also at the pretty prattling babes, twin boys of two years old, whom Roger used to hasten home to see; who and comforted, and put to bed; to be made happier by a wild flower picked up on his path, than if the gift had been a coral with gold bells: where were they now? neglected, dirty, fretting in a corner, their red eyes full of wonder at father's altered ways, and their quick minds watching, with astonished looks, the progress of domestic discord. How the crock of gold had nipped those early blossoms as a killing frost! Again, there used to be, till this sad week of wealth and riotous hilarity, that constantly recurring blessing of the morn and evening prayer which Roger read aloud, and Grace's psalm or chapter; and afterwards the frugal meal—too scanty perhaps, and coarse— but still refreshing, thank the Lord, and seasoned well with health and appetite; and the heartfelt sense of satisfaction that all around was earned by honest labour; and there was content, and hope of better times, and God's good blessing over every thing. Now, all these pleasures had departed: gold, unhallowed gold, gotten hastily in the beginning, broadcast on the rank strong soil of a heart that coveted it earnestly, had sprung up as a crop of poisonous tares, and choked the patch of wheat: gold, unhallowed gold, light come, light gone, had scared or killed the flock of unfledged loves that used to nestle in the cotter's thatch, as surely as if the cash were stones, flung wantonly by truants at a dove-cot; and forth from the crock, that egg of woe had been hatched a red-eyed vulture, to tyrannise in this sad home, where but lately the pelican had dwelt, had spread her fostering wing, and poured out the wealth of her affections."

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The real murderer accuses Roger of the crime, and he is committed for trial:—" Never was there a clearer case; the housekeeper's was there a clearer case; the househeaper hoard had been found in his possession, with a fragment of her shawl; and Sir John Vincent was very well aware of the mystery attending the old woman's death; besides, he was in a great hurry to be off, for Poynter, and Silli-phant, and Lord George Pypp, were to have a hurdle-race with him that day, for a heavy bet, so he really had not time to go deep into the matter; and the result of five minutes' talk before the magisterial chairs (Squire Ryle having been summoned to assist) was, that, on the accusation of Simon Jennings, Roger Acton was fully committed to the county jail, to be tried at next assizes for Bridget Quarles's murder. Thank God, poor Roger, it has come to this! What other way than this was there to save thee from thy sin, to raise thee from thy fall? Where else but in a prison could you get the silent solitary hours leading you again to wholesome thought and deep repentance? Where else could you escape the companionship of all those loose and low associates, sottish brawlers, ignorant and sensual unbelievers, vagabond radicals, and other lewd fellows of the baser sort, that had drank themselves drunk at your expense, and sworn to you as captain? The place, the time, the means for penitence are The crisis of thy destiny is come. Honest Roger, steady Acton, did I not see thy guardian angel,—after all his many tears, ag-grieved and broken spirit!—did I not see him lift his swollen eyes in gratitude to heaven and

benevolence to thee, and smile a smile of hopeful joy when that damned crock was found? Gladly could he thank his Lord to behold the temptation at an end. Did I not see the devil slink away from thee abashed, issuing like an adder from thy heart, and then, with a sudden Protean change, driven from thy hovel as a thundercloud dispersing, when Simon Jennings seized the jar, hugged it as his house-hold god—and took it home with him—and counted out the gold-and locked the bloody treasure in his iron-chest? Fitly did the murderer lock up curses with his spoil. And when God smote thine idol, dashing Dagon to the ground, and thy heart was sore with disappointment, and tender as a peeled fig; when hope was dead for earth, and conscience dared not look beyond it,—ah, Roger, did I judge amiss when I saw, or thought I saw, those eyes full of humble shame, those lips quivering with remorseful sorrow? We will leave thee in the cold stone cell,—with thy well-named angel Grace to comfort thee, and pray with thee, and help thee back to God again, and so repay the debt that a daughter owes her father. Happy prison! where the air is sweetened by the frankincense of piety, and the pavement gem-med with the flowers of hope, and the ceiling arched with heaven's bow of mercy, and the walls hung around with the dewy drapery of penitence! Happy prison! where the talents that were lost are being found again, gathered in humility from this stone floor; where poormaking riches are banished from the postern, and rich-making poverty streameth in as light from the grated window; where care vexeth not now the labourer emptied of his gold, and calumny's black tooth no longer gnaws the heartstrings of the innocent. Hark! it is the turnkey, coming round to leave the pittance for the day: he is bringing in something in an earthen jar. Speak, Roger Acton, which will you choose, man,—a prisoner's mess of pottage, or a crock of gold?"

This last we quote merely as an example of the author's style; and will not prolong our review by going into his exposure of the legal abuse we referred to in our outset, or its rather caricature ridicule in the person of Barrister Sharp, who tried all his arts to have the innocent man hanged and the guilty man acquitted; but merely copy his exit:

"One word about Mr. Sharp: he was entirely chagrined; his fortunes were at stake; he questioned whether any one in Newgate would think of him again. To make matters worse, when he whispered for a fee to Mr. Jennings (for he did whisper, however contrary to professional etiquette), that worthy gentleman replied by a significant sneer to the effect that he had not a penny to give him, and would not if he had: whereupon Mr. Sharp began immediately to coincide with the rest of the world in regarding so impoverished a murderer as an atrocious criminal: then, turning from his client with contempt, he went the length of congratulating Roger on his escape, and actually of-fered his hand to Ben Burke. The poacher's reply was characteristic: 'As you means it kindly, Master Horsehair, I won't take it for an insult: howsomdever, either your hand or mine, I won't say which, is too dirty for shak-Let me do you a good turn. Master, there's a bluebottle on your wig; I think as it's Beelzebub a-whispering in your ear: allow me to drive him away.' And the poacher dealt him such a cuff that the barrister reeled again; and instantly afterwards took advantage of the cloud of hair-powder to leave the court unseen."

is represented as an oppressor through the rascality of his bailiff and housekeeper; and this portion of the work impresses strongly on persons of that rank of life the necessity for looking closely into their own affairs. But all this and much more will be gathered, with satisfaction, from the unique volume we now dismiss with our cordial recommendation.

Songs, Ballads, and other Poems, by the late T. H. Baylty. Edited by his Widow, with a Memoir of the Author. 2 vols. R. Bentley. We had hardly an idea that Mr. Bayly had written so much, and so much that was sweet, pleasing, and poetical. Thirty-six popular dramas, it is true, swell the list; many of them still keeping possession of the stage, in spite of all the novelties intruded upon it; but his lyrics, and other poetical works, fill these two volumes. Of these, we need not say that some are playful, and some tender; some raising the laugh, and some touching the finest chords of the heart by their pathos. Fancy and feeling were both innate in the writer. "I'd be a butterfly," the lightest of the light among the former class; and "O no, we never mention her," a most affecting example of the latter.

But the memoir shews us, that being a man of genius (devoted from early years to literature), he was, according to the usual order of things in our social system, a man of misfortune. He was of good family, and married a most amiable lady, also belonging to the upper circles; but nothing could save them from the ordained common lot. Coal-mines failed, and legal provisions were mal-administered and swallowed up by rogues in trust.

"It was Mr. Haynes Bayly's custom to write an annual birthday ode to his wife; and it will be seen by the following lines addressed 'to Helena,' on the birthday after his sad reverses of fortune, how deeply he felt for her as the sharer of his misfortunes.

Oh! hadst thou never shared my fate, More dark that fate would prove, My heart were truly desolate Without thy soothing love.

But thou hast suffer'd for my sake, Whilst this relief I found, Like fearless lips that strive to take The poison from a wound!

My fond affection thou hast seen, Then judge of my regret, To think more happy thou hadst been If we had never met!

And has that thought been shared by thee?
Ah, no, that smiling cheek
Proves more unchanging love for me
Than labour'd words could speak.

But there are true hearts which the sight Of sorrow summons forth; Though known in days of past delight, We knew not half their worth.

How unlike some who have profess'd So much in friendship's name, Yet calmly pause to think how best They may evade her claim.

But ah! from them to thee I turn, They'd make me loathe mankind. Far better lessons I may learn From thy more holy mind.

The love that gives a charm to home I feel they cannot take: We'll pray for happier years to come For one another's sake.

nine, I won't say which, is too dirty for shaknere's a bluebottle on your wig; I think as
t's Beelzebub a-whispering in your ear: allow
ne to drive him away.' And the poacher dealt
im such a cuff that the barrister reeled again;
nd instantly afterwards took advantage of the
loud of hair-powder to leave the court unseen."

The squire of good rental and good intentions

Mr. and Mrs. Haynes Bayly lived now in their
next prudent and economical manner. They
enotyped each other's society, and were happy
in congeniality of thought and sentiments. At
this period his time was chiefly occupied in
writing for the stage, which amused him excedingly. When he conceived the plot of a
drama, he would work diligently at it till it was

completed to his entire satisfaction; he would then pass many days without writing a line, and this total délassement seemed necessary before he could open another vein of wit and humour."

It were a work of supererogation to fill our pages with any of the author's well-known and widely popular compositions; and therefore with this single trait, in prose and verse, we feelingly commend to the public the remains of an ac-complished gentleman, who so much contri-buted to its delight, and died at the age of 42, a prey to anxiety and melancholy.

The first Ten Cantos of the Inferno of Dante. 8vo, pp. 83. Boston, U.S., Ticknor.

A PILOT-balloon from across the Atlantic, and

the production, we presume, of Mr. T. W. Parsons. With a just idea of the sublimity of the Italian bard, the translation is rendered in smooth English verse, of which the famous opening of the 3d canto may serve as a specimen:

"'Through me ye reach the city of Despair;
Through me eternal wretchedness ye find;
Through me among perdition's race ye fare;
Justice inspired my lofty Founder's mind;
Power, love, and wisdom—heav'nly, first, most high,
Framed me ere aught created else had been,
Saye things eternal—and eterne am I.

Leave here all hope, O ye who enter in!'

These words upon the gateway, overhead, In blackest letters written I discern'd.

Master, their sense is terrible,' I said; And thus to me the prudent sage return'd:

'Perish each coward thought; be firm, be bold;
We've reach'd the place wherein, as told thou wast,
The miserable race thou shalt behold,
The good of whose intelligence is lost,"

The last rhyme, it will be seen, is far from pure accordance; but the passage, brief as it is, forms altogether a fair example of the Boston Dante.

Memoirs of William Smith, LL.D., author of the " Map of the Strata of England and Wales." By his nephew and pupil John Phillips, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c. &c. 8vo, pp. 150. Lon-

don, J. Murray.

A GRATEFUL and gratifying recollection of the
Father of English Geology; of a most simpleminded and worthy man; one of the noblest works of God; and a fine specimen of English honesty and intellect raising themselves from among the mass of the people to scientific eminence and national distinction. Of his affectionate relative and biographer we might truly say the same; but we trust he has a long career of usefulness and honour to run before his merits and fame become the province of history

William Smith's ancestors were a race of farmers settled in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire for many generations; but his grandmother's name being Raleigh, or Rawleigh, he entertained the idea that he might be descended from the famous Sir Walter; on which point Mr. Phillips ingenuously says, he "was pro-bably mistaken; but he had collected some in-formation to elucidate the point, which the editor has not found either leisure or opportunity to complete, by searching the parish-records of Idbury in Gloucestershire, and the registers of wills at Oxford. It is besides of little consequence to the history of 'Strata Smith' from what gens he remotely sprung; his immediate ancestors and all his connexions were in humble life; on the oolitic soils which they had cultivated for ages he was born and bred; on these he planted, in advance of all other men, the standard of geological discovery; mind were given; and in these, according to a natural, if fanciful, wish, his last remains are laid to rest."

He was born on the 23d of March, 1769, and died on the 28th of August, 1839, when on his way to join the British Association (see Literary Gazette of that date). The disposi-tion of his mind was indicated at very early vears, and triumphed over the hindrances of a very rustic and imperfect education. In fact he was self-taught; and being at the age of 18 employed in a survey of his native parish, Churchill, and subsequently of other districts, his fate became fixed, and a new science sprung up from under his observant faculties. Collieries and other subterranean strata upon which he had to report led the way to his making models of the superincumbent and adjacent beds of earth; and thus we had the first true and proportionate models in vertical and horizontal measure. In those days civil engineers were not so prolific as now; and Mr. Smith obtained profitable employment in that line, though somewhat lessened by his addiction to geological pursuits. Thence his system of generalisation was derived, and was of great service to him in his operations in levelling canals and other works. His application of the hitherto merely curious accidents of finding organic remains to the foundations of science, was another grand effort of thought; but we need not follow him in his gallant course, accumulating facts, and reasoning on them with profound discrimination and judgment. "Strata Smith" burst out of the chaos after many long delays; and having happily not been injured by any publication of ideas pilfered from him, justly and indisputably acquired the high position on which his reputation stands. On the 1st of August, 1815, his great geological map of England was published. And soon after its author felt the sorrows of a reverse of fortune, and that poverty which seems to be almost inseparable from every grand performance of genius! From this gloom, however, his later years were rescued by the generous aid of friends, and an annual pension of 100l. from the crown in 1832.

His scientific honours from the first Wollaston gold medal, and the acknowledgments of his worth and merit from every quarter, are familiar to all well-informed persons. Of his predecessors in partial investigations and imperfect glimpses of the same nature, Mr. Phillips gives a concise but interesting account; and winds up the whole with general remarks worthy of his candour and complete acquaintance with the subject.

" Dr. Smith had for many years been successful in guarding his own usually robust health, and he was slow and reluctant to admit of advice better suited to the disorder which now attacked him, and which on a former occasion had so prostrated his strength that he recovered with difficulty under the treatment of his friend Mr. Dunn. He began to feel the attack serious, and to perceive the alarm in the faces of his friends, before Dr. Robertson of Northampton was called to his aid. The author, then earnestly expecting his revered relative at the meeting of the British Association in Birmingham, received information of his illness on the evening of the 26th of August, and in the morning of the 27th attended his bedside. It was difficult to believe, that under that calm, thoughtful, and pleased expression of countenance; those animated descriptions of the country which he had visited a few days previously; those plans of further

active life for completion, lurked pain and fatal disease. If there had been some trace of delirium, this had disappeared; and it seemed as if the remedies applied were producing beneficial effects. But this hope failed; the un-complaining sufferer sunk continually in each succeeding hour, till his eyes lost their bright and kindly light, and the ever-varying features became fixed in serene and awful tranquillity (Aug. 28, 10 P.M.). Dr. Smith was buried at Northampton, at the west end of the beautiful antique church of All Saints; in which, at the suggestion of Dr. Buckland, a tablet will be placed to his memory by a subscription among geologists."

Several portraits of him exist; that prefixed to this volume is a good likeness; and others of his friends, in various parts of it, are pleasing memorials of his own use of the artist's

Diseases of the Lungs from Mechanical Causes; and Inquiries into the Condition of the Artisans exposed to the Inhalation of Dust. By C. Calvert Holland, Esq., M.D., &c. 8vo, pp. 100. London, J. Churchill.

Among the various suffering classes of a highly civilised community, to whom the sympathy of the public has been lately called, it appears that artisans exposed to the inhalation of dust are by no means the least frequent victims of evils not so much necessarily associated with their occupation, as the offspring of changes induced by the extension of manufactures. But the able and well-known author of the work before us disavows, as an object, the excitement of a useless sympathy; he is convinced, and indeed he shews in his work, that there exist easy and practicable remedies for these

Passing over the difference of circumstances of the grinder and stone-cutter, of the dry and moist grinder, and the habits of the workmen, which Dr. Holland, whose practical acquaintance with these matters is very considerable, rates very low indeed,-the doctor proceeds to a lengthened discussion as to the manner in which inhaled dust causes disease, the particular organs that are affected, the symptoms of the malady, its pathology and treatment.

He then arrives at what possesses more general interest—the discussion of the physical and mental condition of the artisans; and it appears from his laborious researches, that in scissor-grinding, in which both the wet and dry stone are used, 86 out of 102 persons died under 45 years of age, and only five lived to beyond 50; 19 of these had also been removed from the employment, and 6 died before 25, and 22 before 30 years of age. The mortality of the fork-grinders is still greater-few attaining more than 30 years of age, and that amidst so much suffering that many sick-clubs have an especial rule against the admission of them, as they would draw largely on their funds from frequent and long-continued sickness. The needle-grinders were examined at Hathersage in Derbyshire, the great seat of that business; and the doctor says that he had frequently heard of the pernicious tendency of this particular occupation, but the evils produced by it ex-ceeded all that imagination had pictured. The grinding departments in Sheffield differ in several respects from the needle branch. In the former, the youths taken as apprentices are always young; and they require considerable teaching and practice to make them of any value. In the latter, this is not the case. The new hands are young men from 17 to 20 years of age, to the study of these his last days of active and strenuous exertion, which asked years of rough and uncultivated from the plough; and

secured, they are dead before the age of own perhaps after two or three years of suffering, and they almost uniformly leave behind widows and small families. At Hathersage the hours of work are limited to six. If this had not been adopted, men would not have been found hardy enough to fill up the vacancies constantly occurring in the ranks of their fellows, occasioned by death. "What," says the doctor, "must we think of a branch in which the workmen are employed only half the day, having the rest for gardening and amusement? and yet the majority of them are killed off below 30 years of age,—men who enter upon the business with vigorous constitutions, and at a time of life when the animal system possesses considerable energy." We had no conception that men could be found so reckless of consequences as to engage in the trade, when pro-tracted suffering and death were the certain

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Razor-grinding scarcely presents a more fa-vourable picture. Out of 275 now employed, 154 are under 31 years of age, and there are only 20 above 45. Of 182, 22 died before 25, 39 before 30, 38 before 35, 37 before 40, 25 before 45, 9 before 50, and only 1 lived to pass the 60th year. From the high price of wheel-rent and of tools, the pernicious character of this occupation in respect to morals is said to surpass all others. The rate of mortality among the penknife-grinders appears to be about the same as that of the razor-grinders. Tableknife-grinding exhibits an improved state of things, such being entirely ground on a wet stone; but unfortunately the artisans are unnecessarily mixed with the dry grinders. The grinding of saws, scythes, sickles, and heavy edged tools, is extensively done with the wet edged tools, is extensively done with the wet stone; and the articles, from their size, requir-ing a large stone, this is generally moved by water, and not by steam-power; and the grind-ing is generally pursued in the country. These latter branches, therefore, present a striking and pleasing contrast to the branches already considered. "We have here," says Dr. Hol-land, "far superior physical powers, greater intelligence, better remuneration, and consi-derably less disease then will be found in any derably less disease, than will be found in any other body of grinders." This class is, how-ever, exceedingly liable to accidents from the breaking of stones, and from becoming entangled in the machinery. Of 42 deceased, 5 were killed by the breaking of stones; and of 78 living artisans, 13 have had broken limbs or other severe injuries.

As the remedy for the great evil,—that of the inhalation of dust,—the doctor describes a simple plan, which the trial of years has now proved to be equal to the thorough correction of the evil, and the usage of which he therefore very properly states ought to be generally en-forced. It consists of a wooden funnel placed a little above the surface of the revolving stone, and terminating in a channel immediately under the surface of the floor. At the point of ter-mination a fan is placed, which is caused to revolve by a strap attached to the machinery. The dust, thus carried away and accumulated in a water-trough, has been found to have almost the same specific gravity as metal. The doctor further states that, as far as his

researches go, the degree of ignorance existing in any class of artisans is a general measure of the rate of mortality, leaving out of consideration the influence of circumstances connected with particular occupations. The mode in which ignorance operates is various. It maintains a grovelling position in society; it imparts

in those manufactories where ventilation is not secured, they are dead before the age of 30, perhaps after two or three years of suffering, has few resources beyond the gratification of his appetites; hence he becomes the slave of In another portion of the work, the doctor has also the following very just re-

"The power to read and write is a valuable attainment. It opens sources of gratification that otherwise would be unenjoyed, and places within reach the elements of excellence and distinction. We cannot, however, forego the expression of an opinion which we have long entertained - that an exaggerated degree of civilisation or intellectual progress is inferred from the possession of this power. It is viewed too much as evidence of education, rather than as a means towards it. The wide, and by far the most important field—the emotions which may be awakened to the perception of virtue or the beauties of external nature—is often left uncultivated, as if fraught with no interest, or barren tivated, as it raught with no interest, or barren of beneficial results. Indeed, the tendency of the age is material, not spiritual. The struggle is for wealth, and the mind is trained to regard it as the most valuable of all objects; and taught to pursue it as the aim and end of existence, and not as a means of enjoyment."

The Cold-Water Cure. Reprinted, with Additions, from the last edition of the Baths of Germany. By Edwin Lee, Esq. Pp. 42. London, J. Churchill.

As this is a reprint, it need not occupy our at-tention long. We, however, recommend it as characterised by the author's customary good sense and clear judgment. Mr. Lee says very truly of hydropathy, that it is precisely because its value has been exaggerated, that it will not be able to avoid a reverse of fortune.

The Land and the League, or the Rebellion and the Prophecy: a Doggerel Ballad. Pp. 46. London, W. N. Wright.

It is a great relaxation to flee from the reports of parliamentary debates, agricultural and anti-corn-law meetings, and find all our great na-tional questions discussed in doggerel. This week, indeed, seems to be prolific in immortal verse! The present exquisite tome describes the Queen's visit to France, with particulars unknown to the newspaper-press with all its diligence and activity. Ex. gr. :

" Prince Albert he went out to see
The gallant troops of France,
And to a sutler's stall did he
In merry mood advance:

' Now give me of the soldiers' wine! Their bread too give to me!' And there he ate and drank the same, And laugh'd right merrily.

Then drawing out his royal purse, No silver base he told, But princely paid his reckoning In sovereigns of gold."

But perhaps the most touching passage is where the Queen replies to the sage advice of King Philippe to stand by the landed interests, and see that factory-children were not overwrought,

"'Ah!' said the Queen, with look most sad,
'It grieveth me full sore;
Had I my will the babes at least
Should toil in mills no more.

I think were my dear Prince of Wales, And his sweet sisters ta'en And forced to toil at midnight hour, 'Twould rend my heart in twain.

Much have I doubted in my mind On various counsels given; And I will weigh your sage advice, And pray for aid from heaven.

My people are my chiefest care, Their welfare my delight; Much wisdom shines in your discourse; My aged friend, good night,"

We would also say good night, but for a rhyme which must ever be famous in the archives of poesy:

"Sir Robert Peel now came post-haste, And Secretary Graham, Whose cautious remedies were met By threatenings to slay 'em."

Love and Jealousy: a Tragedy for the Million. Pp. 30. London, E. and F. N. Spon.

THOUGH the characters in this play are a potboy, dustman, washerwoman, housemaid, &c., it is written in fair rhyme, and the language and sentiments such as would befit a higher order of society. List, for instance, to the washerwoman's daughter, Lineninda:

wasnerwonian's daugnere, Lenennae:
"Love from man's breast how light a cause will sever!
The love of woman doth endure for ever.
In fond despite of coldness or deceit
Still will her heart with warm affection beat.
Thus the sweet odours which the rose doth give
Cling to the flower when it hath ceased to live."

The last idea we do not mean to assert is new, but the dustman's reply is:

"Dustolus. I've loved thee, Lineninda, and I swear By ev'ry god in earth, in sea, or air, And by each binn that I have emptied yet, My heart to love thee never shall forget!"

Poor Dustolus is something in the situation of Macheath; and the dialogue is so original and promiscuous, that we indulge in the quotation of a page:

of a page:
"Broomanda. Thou lov'st her—thou, thou, thou!
It isn't true.
Indeed, indeed, ma'am, he cannot love you.
Come, let's be gone, and leave the lady here;
Dustolus, come! Dustolus, oh, my dear!
Lineninda. With me, I swear, Dustolus, thou shalt
(Takes him by the other arm)
And send that hussy packing on her way;
Or by the gas that shines our heads above,
The fellest hate shall follow fondest love!
Woman, let go thy hold!
Broom. Why should I so?
I wish you, woman, from my love would go.
Lin. From her love! ha! ha! ha! She makes me
merry—

Lin. From her love! na! na: na: Due Haares have merry—
From her love prom her love! 'Tis funny—very! (Wildly) Methinks I see a forest now on fire, Methinks the flames are curling higher, higher! Ye gods! what blaze now comes athwart my sight! The whole creation seems one realm of light! What's here!—a lioness! Hal ha! tis true. But, lioness, I'll be a match for you! Come forth my trusty weapon! (Draws a dagger.) Now, you beast,

you beast,
I think you'll never taste another feast. (Stabs Broom.)
Broom. Oh, she has kill'd me! Gentle youth, good by !

by!

Happy and long live thou! Farewell—I die! (Dies.)

Dust. What in thy frenzy hast thou done? Behold!

Thou'st kill'd a woman worth her weight in gold.

Lin. I kill'd a woman! Something is wrong here—
(Touches her head.)

I fear—oh, heavens! I don't know what I fear.

I'm mad! I'm mad! I'm wild! I'm raging wild!

Anon, you'll find me calm as any child.

But first I must let forth some drops of blood.

(Stab herself!)

(Staha herself)

Ha, ha, ha, ha! 'Tis good—'tis very good.
Much better I am now, though rather weary;
I'll to my bed, for chill's the night and dreary. (Dies.)"

Why this play was not sent in to Mr. Webster we cannot surmise; if it had, it would surely have borne off the prize! See, we cannot write upon it without getting into a sort of poetry.

The Power of Conscience; or, the Monopolist, and other Poems. By Thos. Latter. Svo, pp. 316. London, Smith, Elder, and Co.

OF the principal long poem, the following is a rather favourable specimen:

"I do remember once a pensive cat Upon the plinth of a bridge exhausted sat; Oer water still, surrounded wall'd about (The stinking moats which Portsmouth's folks dug out),

She seem'd to think 'twere best at once to die Than mock'd live of ev'ry passer by: Calmly she left the narrow seat of stone, Without a cry, nor was a missile thrown; Slant she sunk half a fathom to the ground, Nor swam a hundred strokes ere she was drown'd. And shall a cat despised and grudged a meal Disdain to live the sport of boys and shame Marteel?'

MAJOR HARRIS'S ÆTHIOPIA.

[Second notice.] ABSTAINING from the magniloquent and romantic aberrations from sober description and remark, which we pointed out as defects in this work, and applying ourselves to those portions which convey valuable or interesting information, we resume the narrative for a moment on the coast where the expedition landed. There, referring to the salt, with which our last paper closed, the notice of the Bahr Assál now a dead sea, but probably being, at a very remote period, a continuation inland of the Gulf of Tajúra-throws an interesting light on the gradual formation of similar volcanic basins. Major H. says:-" Whilst no soundings are found in the estuary of Tajúra, Goobut el Kharáb gives one hundred and fifteen fathoms, or six hundred and ninety feet; and premising the depression of the lake to have been formerly correspondent therewith, one hundred and twenty feet may be assumed as its present depth. To this it has been reduced by the great annual evaporation that must take place -an evaporation decreasing every year as the salt solution becomes more intensely concentrated, and evinced by the saline incrustation on the surface, no less than by a horizontal efflorescence, in strata, at a considerable height norescence, in strain, at a consuctable length on the face of the circumjacent rocks. In the lapse of years, should the present order of things continue undisturbed from below, the water will probably disappear altogether, leaving a field of rock-salt, which, when covered in by the débris washed down from the adjacent mountains, will form an extensive depôt for the supply of Danákil generations yet unborn; and the shocks of earthquakes being still occasionally felt in the neighbourhood, it seems not improbable—to carry the speculation still fur-ther—that Goobut el Kharáb, divided only by a narrow channel from the Bay of Tajúra, will, under subterranean influence, be, in due pro-cess of time, converted into a salt lake, in no material respect dissimilar from the Bahr Assál -another worthy type of the Valley of the

Shadow of Death. We must now proceed with the kafilah, which

thus describes a part of the route : " Here terminated the dreary passage of the dire Teháma-an iron-bound waste, which, at this inauspicious season of the year, opposes difficulties almost overwhelming in the path of the traveller. Setting aside the total absence of water and forage throughout a burning tract of fifty miles—its manifold intricate mountain passes, barely wide enough to admit the transit of a loaded camel, the bitter animosity of the wild bloodthirsty tribes by which they are infested, and the uniform badness of the road, if road it may be termed, every where beset with the huge jagged blocks of lava, and intersected by perilous acclivities and descents-it is no exaggeration to state, that the stifling sirocco which sweeps across the unwholesome salt flat during the hotter months of the year, could not fail, within eight-and-forty hours, to destroy the hardiest European adventurer. Some idea of the temperature of this terrible region may be derived from the fact of fifty pounds of well-packed spermaceti candles having, during the short journey from Tajúra, been

so completely melted out of the box as to be rising in the very heart of Æthiopia, at an reduced to a mere bundle of wicks. Even the Danákil, who from early boyhood have been accustomed to traverse the burning lava of the Teháma, never speak of it but in conjunction with the devouring element of whose proper-ties it partakes so liberally, and when alluding to the Lake of Salt, invariably designate it 'fire.'"

A very little further on, a sergeant, corporal, and Portuguese follower, were horribly assassinated in the dead of the night, and the mur-derers escaped detection. Watch and ward derers escaped detection. were afterwards more strictly kept; but we could wonder at no atrocities when surrounded

by such savages as these.
"Amongst other Mudaïto visitors from its borders, there came one of the Galeyla, an outcast from his clan, who bore amongst his fellows the reputation of being a veritable cannibal. This villain became at once the cynosure of every eye, and stood confessed the vilest of the vile. A coil of putrid entrails which en-A coil of putrid entrails which encircled his neck had been distended with mutton fat into the figure of monstrous sausages; and the shaggy mane of a filthy hyena, that he had destroyed and devoured the preceding day, being twined in a becoming wreath around his dark brow, mingled wildly with his dishevelled locks. Under the gaze of so great a crowd, his calm repose was calculated to elicit the highest admiration; and fully sensible of his own merit, the man-eater endured the scrutiny of the curious populace with an air of conscious dignity, which was scarcely disturbed when the temerity of the more juvenile spectators called imperatively for the interference of his heavy mace. It is difficult to comprehend the motives which may have induced this worthy to venture thus rashly among his bitterest foes; but the nature of the terms occasionally subsisting between the Mudaïto and the Danákil are not more singularly anomalous than those that bind the Danákil and the Eesah, over a portion of which latter Loheïta ibn Ibrahim exercises nominal supremacy. Making common cause, and assisting each other against the Mudaïto, international hostilities are nevertheless almost unceasing; and mutual interest, added to the aversion entertained to the perpetuation of blood-feuds, affords perhaps the only substantial argument for their temporary cessation. Of three chieftains who take the title of Ougass, and whose authority is in some sort acknowledged by the Eesah, the principal is Ougass Robiley, who resides with the Gidderboosi, south of Zeyla. Hoossain ibn Fara, the next in order, is related by marriage to the Makobúnto of the Débeni, and asserts influence from the Reahmoosa tribe of Somauli, bordering on Goobut el Kharáb, to Kore Korágureet, within thirty miles of Zeyla, where commences the country of the Hebrowal —thence south to the limits of the Galla territory, and north-west to Killulloo. Here it is bounded by Errur, the residence of the old sheïkh of the Woema, and by the independent Mohammadan principality of Hurrur, whose Ameer annually confers upon each Eesah chief a conical skull-cap and turban, in recognition of his alliance."

From this piece of African portraiture and geography, we must leap at once over a remarkable gathering of many clans, and a pleasant account of the apparent ease and happiness of children slaves on their way to the coast, and arrive at the Hawash river, across which the embassy had no little trouble to transport

elevation of eight thousand feet above the sea, which it never reaches, the Hawash is fed at long intervals by niggard tributaries from the high bulwarks of Shoa and Efat, and flows like a great artery through the arid and inhospi-table plains of the Adaïel, green and wooded throughout its long course, until finally absorbed in the lagoons at Aussa; and the canopy of fleecy clouds, which, as the day dawned, hung thick and heavy over the lofty blue peaks beyond, gave sad presage of the deluge that was pouring between the verdant banks from the higher regions of its source."-" The Háwash, here upwards of two thousand two hundred feet above the ocean, forms in this direction the nominal boundary of the dominions of the king of Shoa."-" The stream of the Hawash being exceedingly thick and troubled, from the distance it had rolled betwixt clayey banks, it was with much satisfaction that a pond of wholesome water, styled Dubbélli, was discovered, divided from the river by a narrow wooded neck of land, one hundred and fifty yards across. Steep shelving walls, strewed with shells and the reliquiæ of hippopotami, environed this singular basin, which appeared to be fathomless, and to measure a mile and a half in circumference. Lofty trees, in a wintry dress, cast their deep shadow over the brink; and whilst the stems of many were partially immersed, the leafless branches of some were loaded with storks' nests, and the shattered limbs of others presented tokens of the giant strength of the elephant, no less than of the terrible wrath of lightning and storm. Corresponding tongues abutting from the opposite banks divide the expanse into two equal bays. A group of wild Bedouins watered their camels on the shore, and in the centre Behemoth rolled his unwieldy carcass to the surface amid floating crocodiles—protruding his droll snout, which glistened in slimy ugliness, to blow ever and anon a snort that might be heard at the distance of a mile. A two-ounce ball, duly hardened with antimony, took effect in the skull of one of the boldest with a crash that was not to be mistaken; but although the monster went down, leaving a gallon of blood to denote the disaster that had befallen him, he had temporarily disappeared; and by the incredulous Danákil the assurance was received with a sneering shake of the head, that his carcass must infallibly be found floating in the morning."-" Prior to crossing the Hawash, the only sheep observed were the ovis aries laticaudata, or Hejáz lamb, with sable head and neck, thick fatty tail, and fleece composed of hair instead of wool. This species had now, to the westward of the river, given place to the larger Abyssinian breed, with huge pendulous appendages of truly preposterous size, encumbered with fat, and vibrating to the animal's progress. Parti-coloured goats, armed with long wrinkled horns, still diversified the flocks, which were uniformly attended by small dogs with fox-like heads, spotted yellow and white, and evidently high in favour with their dark mistresses. Several of these females wore around the neck large tinkling brazen bells, borrowed from the collar of an Abyssinian mule, and forming a very suitable accompaniment to the massive fabrications of pewter and copper which loaded their ears. Their long black tresses were braided into an infinity of streamers, each resembling the lash of a schoolboy's whip, and various most ingenious tattooed devices scarred their arms, temples, and bosoms. By the beaux their cumbrous presents for the Shoa'n king. of the caravan, unqualified homage was paid to "Second of the rivers of Abyssinia, and certain coquettes, who carried milk-jars curiof the caravan, unqualified homage was paid to

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millions usually seen around the molasses at a Banian's stall. No attempt was made to disturb those that clustered in their blear inflamed eyes; and the swarms collected about the wrinkled corners of the mouth were only put to flight when the hand was applied to second the wonted exclamation of surprise at the appearwonted excisination of surprise and appearance of a white face, 'Nubbee Mohammadoo!'
Numerous wigwams peeped through the extensive forest of aged camel-thorns, which borders on Lé Ado, and eventually debouches upon a succession of barren plains covered with herds of antelope. Two rough stone enclosures by the wayside were surmounted by poles, from which dangled the heads of as many lions, dilapidated by time, although still enveloped in the skin, and said to have been speared on this spot many years before by the Bedouins, who exalted these trophies in commemoration of the deed."

Yet here, so near the end of their journey, impediments like those they experienced at its commencement awaited our countrymen, and it was nearly three weeks before they could get to the residence and throne of the majesty of Shoa. A frontier lord of the Marches and the custom-house imposed the chief obstacles. But the change of scene as they ascended the Alps

was delightful.

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"Every change in the soil and climate of Africa is in extremes, and barrenness and unbounded fertility border on each other with a suddenness whereof the denizens of temperate climes can form no conception. As if by the touch of the magician's wand, the scene now passes in an instant from parched and arid wastes to the green and lovely highlands of Abyssinia, presenting one sheet of rich and thriving cultivation. Each fertile knoll is crowned with its peaceful hamlet—each rural vale traversed by its crystal brook, and teeming with herds and flocks. The cool mountain zephyr is redolent of eglantine and jasmine; and the soft green turf, spangled with clover, daisies, and buttercups, yields at every step the aromatic fragrance of the mint and thyme."-"It was a cool and lovely morning; and a fresh invigorating breeze played over the mountain-side, on which, though less than ten degrees removed from the equator, flourished the vege-tation of northern climes. The rough and stony road wound on by a steep ascent over hill and dale-now skirting the extreme verge of a precipitous cliff-now dipping into the basin of some verdant hollow, whence, after traversing the pebbly course of a murmuring brook, it suddenly emerged into a succession of shady lanes, bounded by flowering hedge-rows. The wild rose, the fern, the lantana, and the honeysuckle, smiled around a succession of highly cultivated terraces, into which the entire range was broken by banks supporting the soil; and on every eminence stood a cluster of conically thatched houses, environed by green hedges, and partially embowered amid dark trees. As the troop passed on, the peasant abandoned his occupation in the field to gaze at the novel procession; whilst merry groups of hooded women, decked in scarlet and crimson, summoned by eession; whilst merry groups of hooded women, decked in scarlet and crimson, summoned by the renewal of martial strains, left their avocations in the hut to welcome the king's guests with a shrill ziroleet, which rang from every hamlet. The leather petticoat of the wandering shepherdess was no longer to be seen. Birds warbled among the leafy groves; and throughout the rich landscape reigned an air throughout throughout the rich landscape reigned an air throughout throughout throughout throughout throughout throughout the rich landscape reigned and rich landscape reigned an air throughout throughout

turns of the road the prospect was rugged, wild, and beautiful. Aigibbi, the first Christian village of Efát, was soon revealed on the summit of a height, where, within an enclosure of thorns, rest the remains of a traveller, who not long before had closed his eyes on the threshold of the kingdom, a victim to the pestilential sky of the lowlands. Three principal ranges were next crossed in succession, severally intersected by rivulets which are all tributary to the Hawash, although the waters are for the most part absorbed before they reach that stream. Lastly, the view opened upon the wooded site of Ankóber, occupying a central position in a horse-shoe crescent of mountains, still high above, which enclose a magnificent amphitheatre of ten miles in diameter. This is clothed throughout with a splendidly varied and vigorous vegetation, and choked by minor abutments, converging towards its gorge on the confines of the Adel plains."

But having conducted the kafileh hither,* we must for the present leave it, and conclude with the description of two of the leading characters of Shoa, "the hereditary" Bow-street Townsend and the Monarch of the country.

"Among the very few incidents that oc-curred to break the monotony of the proba-tionary sojourn was the arrival of the 'lebáshi,' the hereditary thief-catcher of the kingdom. For several hours the little town was in a state of confusion and dismay. Burglary had been committed-divers pieces of salt had been abstracted; and the appearance of the policeofficer was not one whit more agreeable to the innocent than to the guilty. A ring having been formed in the market-place by the crowded spectators, the diviner introduced his accomplice, a stolid-looking lad, who seated himself upon a bullock's hide with an air of deep resignation. An intoxicating drug was, under many incantations, extracted from a mysterious leathern scrip, and thrown into a horn filled with new milk; and this potation, aided by several hurried inhalations of a certain narcotic, had the instantaneous effect of rendering the recipient stupidly frantic. Springing upon his feet, he dashed, foaming at the mouth, among the rabble; and, without any respect to age or sex, dealt vigorously about him, until at length secured by a cord about the loins, when he dragged his master round and round from street to street, snuffling through the nose like a bear in the dark recesses of every house, and leaving unscrutinised no hole or corner. After scraping for a considerable time with his nails under the foundation of a hut, wherein he suspected the delinquent to lurk, the imp entered, sprang upon the back of the proprietor, and became totally insensible. The man was forthwith arraigned before a tribunal of justice, at which Ayto Kálama Work presided; and although no evidence could be adduced, and he swore repeatedly to his innocence by the life of the king, he was sentenced by the just judges to pay forty pieces of salt. This fine was exactly double the amount alleged to have been stolen, and one fourth became the perquisite of the

ously wrought of palm-leaves, and studded with manifold cowry-shells. To the backs of sundry weird harridans were strapped skins containing sour curds, which attracted flies in the tens of turns of the road the prospect was rugged, disciple remains torpid upon the ground; when all parties concerned feel perfectly satisfied that the animal has either strayed or been destroyed by wild beasts, and the expenses attending the divination must be paid by the owner."

Now for the king, and the ushering of the

embassy to his royal presence:

"Noise, bustle, and confusion, which in Abyssinia are reckoned highly honourable to the guest, were again at their climax on reaching the outer wicket, where the form of obtaining the royal permission to pass was to be observed ere entrance could be accorded by the state door-keepers. Further detention was experienced in the court-yard, at the hands of sundry officers of the privy chamber, whose visages were but ill adapted to sustain the character of high official importance, and whose assumption of dignity proved singularly ludicrous. length came a message expressive of his majesty's unqualified surprise and satisfaction at the extraordinary celerity with which the guns were being served, and his desire to see the embassy forthwith; but attempting to advance, opposition was again interposed, and it needed another message, and yet another command, before admission could be obtained to the royal presence. The last peal of ordnance was rat-tling in broken echoes along the mountain chain, as the British embassy stepped at length over the high threshold of the reception-hall. Circular in form, and destitute of the wonted Abyssinian pillar in the centre, the massive and lofty clay walls of the chamber glittered with a profusion of silver ornaments, emblazoned shields, matchlocks, and double-barrelled guns. Persian carpets and rugs of all sizes, colours, and patterns, covered the floor, and crowds of alakas, governors, chiefs, and principal officers of the court, arrayed in their holyday attire, stood around in a posture of respect, uncovered to the girdle. Two wide alcoves receded on either side, in one of which blazed a cheerful wood fire, engrossed by indolent cats, whilst in the other, on a flowered satin ottoman, surrounded by withered eunuchs and juvenile pages of honour, and supported by gay velvet cushions, reclined in Æthiopic state his most Christian majesty Sáhela Selássie. The dech agafari, or state door-keeper, as master of the ceremonies, stood with a rod of green rushes to preserve the exact distance of approach to royalty, and as the British guests entered the hall and made their bows to the throne, motioned them to be seated upon chairs that had previously been sent in—which done, it was com-manded that all might be covered. The king was attired in a silken Arab vest of green brocade, partially shrouded under the ample folds of a white cotton robe of Abyssinian manufacture, adorned with sundry broad crimson stripes and borders. Forty summers, whereof eight and twenty had been passed under the uneasy cares of the crown, had slightly furrowed his dark brow, and somewhat grizzled a full bushy head of hair, arranged in elaborate curls after the fashion of George the First; and although considerably disfigured by the loss of the left eye, the expression of his manly features, open, pleasing, and commanding, did not in their tout ensemble belie the character for impartial justice which the despot has obtained far and wide— even the Danákil comparing him to 'a fine balance of gold.'

The presents were received with immense

Select Pieces from the Poems of Wordsworth. London, J. Burns.

VERY prettily got up indeed, with borders in every page. The selection is also worthily

The Church of England Magazine. Vol. XV. July to Dec. 1843. London, J. Burns. BESIDES religious, there is a great deal of interesting antiquarian, architectural, and miscellaneous information given in this volume; which, without meddling with its doctrines, we can truly pronounce to be both interesting and instructing.

Geology: Introductory, Descriptive, and Practical. By D. T. Ansted, M.A., F.R.S., F.G.S. Part I. pp. 128. London, Van Voorst. Judging only from this first of eight parts which are to comprise the work, we hesitate not to predict that unless, which is not likely, the successive parts be unequal, Prof. Ansted's Geology will become the most popular general treatise on this important branch of natural history. His style and method may be described as the mean of Mantell and Lyell, partaking both of the ease, though not the florid elegance of the former, and of the accuracy and clearness, but not the rigid science of the latter. This remark, however, may require modification when the author gets warmer and deeper in his subject: we shall have occasion to qualify it if necessary. The illustrations and letter-press are exceedingly good, and only one "erratum" accompanies the "part;" there should have been one more for page 13, which we supply-for "five last," read last five.

The Mirror of Fashion. Nos. I. and II. 4to. London, J. Robins.

PRETTY ladies in pretty dresses - the true fashions of the day, as we hope for the sake of those who may dress after these sixpenny worths. They are mostly dark coloured.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

ENGLISH SURNAMES.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette,

SIR,-That some at least of your readers are not tired of hearing about surnames is proved by the sale of one-fourth of the second edition of Mr. Lower's Essays on Family Nomenclature within a very short time: a few more words, therefore, on the same subject may not be unacceptable.

"What are names? Nought but frames,"

sings Wieland, as quoted by Herr Professor von der Hagen, in his recommendatory preface to a slight volume, entitled Little Name-Lexicon, published a few years back in Germany by a certain Herr Heinrich Wilhelm Schütz; " but," adds the worthy professor, "they are not on that account the less important." Are they not, however, something more? Let us see what that "Oxford logic," so much talked about, and so little understood by most people out of the University, and by some in it, will do for the matter in hand. 1. " Words are things, names are words, argal," &c .- the conclusion is obvious. 2. "Things are important, names are things, argal," &c.—obvious again.
(N.B. No worse syllogisms than these will pass muster at a degree-examination.) Mr. Schütz, like a true son of Etumos, loves a timely jest, which he proves at the very outset in his introduction, wherein, besides sundry other plays upon words and ideas, he styles his book his "Schützling," which is much as if a Mr. Bant (for there is such a name—indeed it is hard to say what is not an English surname) or a Mr. like Filligarlick. Filligarlick. Filligarlick.

Dear were to publish, and to call his "little offspring" his bantling or his darling.

Mr. S. gives a fair sprinkling of English names, local and personal; in the analysis of which he is, on the whole, at least as happy as an English etymologist would probably be in a like number of German names. Sometimes, however, his mistakes are rather whimsical: Cromwell, for instance, he glosses by "Cramwell, hold fast:" now one never heard that the Lord Protector was a great eater, though his Highness is said to have liked his glass nearly as well as any roystering cavalier of them all: " hold fast" his power he certainly did, as is the wont of usurpers; the final -well, however, shews his name to have been of local origin. Franklin he refers to Frank, instancing the German diminutive Frenkel, and the Austrian Fränkl; but Fortescue's " father of a family, endowed with great possessions," is the undoubted original of the name. Gosspatrick Mr. Schütz terms a corruption of "Comes Patricius," the title of a certain Earl of March (?), who took refuge in Scotland at the Conquest; and cites as similar perversions, "Fizpatrick" from "Vice-patricius"—clearly, however, "file (de) Patrick," "filius Patricii"—and "Vizthumb" from "Vice-dominus," evidently also, if a name at all, a patronymic, though who this descendant of the mighty Thumb was, it may puzzle some of your learned correspondents to resolve us. On the strength, we may suppose, of Erskine's

"Tis true I am ill,
But I need not complain,
For he never knew pleasure
Who never knew Payne,"

Mr. S. derives Paine the name from pain the thing, an etymology more easily condemned than improved upon: Fitz-paine occurs in Holinshed's Roll of Battel Abbey, Pollock Mr. Schütz explains by Pole; but it is clearly equivalent to "little Paul," as Willock is to "little Will:" had he said Polack, he would have been nearer the mark-" sledded Polacks." Another German, Mr. Kohl, in his Travels in Ireland, falls into strange blunders with regard to English surnames, to be excused only by his ac-knowledged ignorance of our language. His version of the well-known distich on Cornish names is-

" Pill, pull, and pen. Spell the name of Cornishmen!"

Now, the most noticeable names beginning with the syllable Pill are Pillgarlick and Pillycock, both of which rest chiefly on the doubtful authority of oral tradition. Of the latter, Mr. Halliwell himself can give us no further information than that supplied by the popular and infantile legend, which, repeating the important name as if to fix it firmly in the youthful memory, purports that he "sate on a hill," when and where is not specified, whence if he has not before this time taken his departure, whither does not appear, " he sits there still:"

"Pillycock, Pillycock, sate on a hill; If he's not gone, he sits there still."

Of Pillgarlick also we know but too little-nothing, indeed, beyond the fact that he was and is, for whatever reason, always called poorpoor Pillgarlick." On the origin of his name opinions differ: Skinner (Etymologicon) thinks it was a term of contempt applied to one who had lost his hair by illness—" peeled" or " pilled

· Edgar, in his feigned madness, repeats the first

garlick," much, I suppose, as we say "mangey dog," and the like; but wherefore "garlick?" unless every poor bald fellow is to be put " en rang d'oignon," as the French express it. Thomson (Etymons) refers it to the "Teutonic pilger-lich," pilgrim-like, in allusion to the wretched destitute case of many of the poor pilgrims of the middle ages, who returned bootless and weather-beaten" from their long and weary way-wanderings. But it is a good stride from "Teutonic" to English without the help of the Anglo-Saxon, the want of which stepping-stone always makes the passage perilous. The following lines in Skelton's Why come ye nat to Courte? seem to suggest another and perhaps more plausible explanation than either of the above:

> " Good reason and good skyll, They may garlicke pyll, Cary sackes to the myll, Or pescoddes they may shyll."

Here "pylling," or peeling, garlick is evidently classed among employments then deemed mean and contemptible; may not, then, the scornful phrase "poor pillgarlick" have had this origin? "Fylling garlicke," "carying sackes," and "shylling pescoddes" (shelling pease), seem to have been held equally disgraceful with "carrying coals," an employment to which we attach no idea of contempt or ridicule, unless when their destination chances to be Newcastle. But this recalls us to Mr. Kohl: how he, or any one else, can make "pill" out of "tre" (except in the shape of Jesuit's bark), one is at a loss to imagine. "Pull," his next attempt, is not so far removed from "pol"—but we need not trouble ourselves further with his researches into Cornish and Welsh names. Mr. Kohl is unfortunate in having a less discreet translator than Raumer, so many of whose blunders and misstatements are judiciously corrected or omitted in the English edition. The venial errors of Schütz and Kohl, and the unpardonable vagaries, to use no harsher term, of Rau-mer and Pückler ("Prince Pickle," Punch would have called him, had Punch then taken up a fixed abode in the Strand), ought to be a useful lesson to our own note-taking travellers to be careful what they set down as facts about foreign countries. It is right and fair to be taught by a stranger, whether an enemy or not -and hostis is said to have borne either meaning. Your obedient servant,

B.A. Oxon. P.S. A lady (not Aunt Margery) not long ar.s. A lady (not Aunt Margery) not long ago saw announced in a shop-window at Brighton, in large characters, "Real Genoa velvet, 2s. a yard." The idea of such a bargain was irresistible. "Will you shew me some of your velvet at two shillings?" "Yes, ma'am." "Why this is Manchester, common cotton! how can you call it 'real Genoa?"" "Why, ma'am, the fact is—you may not know—but the real meaning of Genoa, ma'am, is cotton, ma'am !" Daggers were looked, but neither used nor spoken; and the lady left the shop in silent indignation.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

CHRONOMETRICAL EXPEDITION.

WE have seen letters from Prof. Airy and M. Schumacher, containing extracts from communications to them respectively by M. Struve, relating the determination of the difference of longitude between Pulkowa and Altona, congratulating Mr. Dent on the admirable workings of his chronometers, and thanking him for the great assistance he had so liberally contributed towards the success of the expedition. We look upon this as greatly more than an individual triumph. Artists from all parts of Europe forwarded chronometers to the great Russian expedition, and British workmanship has borne off the palm. M. Struve says, "Parmi le grand nombre de chronomètres (81) de tant d'artistes distingués, les Dents ont obtenu le premier rang d'une manière éclatante." But in the one exultation we are forgetting the expedition, and in it a cause of regret at the supineness of our own government in similar determinations. The Russian steamer has made the transit between Pulkowa and Altona nine times, and the difference of longitude by the result of the first calculations is 1h 21' 32.50": the calculations are to be gone over again, and the difference may be altered, but only to a few hundredth parts of a second. In the ensuing summer the object of the Russian expedition will be to determine the difference of longitude between Altona and Greenwich.

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GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 12.—Mr. Murchison, president, in the chair. A letter was communicated announcing the safe arrival at Hong-Kong of Col. Chesney on the 26th Nov.: the letter states that the troops have much suffered, but they will greatly benefit by the colonel's presence, moral courage, and example. The president announced that Mr. J. Alexander had sent a second donation of 50%, to the society.

The paper read was upon the Isthmus of Panama, by Mr. W. Wheelwright, with a view to the establishment of an easy line of communication between the two oceans. Mr. Wheelwright was perfectly acquainted with the country, having resided in or frequented it for the last twenty years. After discussing some of the routes that had been proposed as lines of communication, whether by canal or otherwise, between the Atlantic and Pacific, Mr. Wheelwright gives the decided preference to the line between Chagres and Panama-the line, in fact, which had been so thoroughly explored and ably described by Col. Lloyd. The Chagres river cannot easily be ascended by sailingvessels, for various reasons; but properly constructed steamers of from 600 to 700 tons burden may cross the bar, and ascend as far as the confluence of the Trinidad at all times and seasons. From a height at the junction of the Trinidad, the line pointed out by Lloyd is distinctly seen to be free from any continuous heights; and from another elevation at Gorgona on the Chagres, the line which runs about five miles to the westward of the latter town is seen to be uninterrupted but by small isolated The road from Gorgona to Panama, good in the dry season, is muddy after the rains, though practicable; and an omnibus might be driven along it by merely clearing away the trees. This road passes over the head waters of the streams flowing into the two oceans, and such is the level that the traveller cannot perceive any division between them. The level nature of the ground thus satisfactorily established, Mr. Wheelwright is of opinion that whatever ulterior plan may be decided upon, a road should first be constructed as near the level line as possible, both with a view to future labours which such a road would greatly facilitate, and for the purpose of an immediate intercourse between the two oceans. This road should commence at the junction of the Trinidad with the Chagres, to which place the steamers would ascend without stopping at Chagres; thus, no risk from climate would be incurred, and the whole detention on the Isth-

sions, which are cheap; labour is likewise cheap; and coal, when wanted, is found in abundance, and of good quality, extending across the Istimus from Boca del Toro to St. David. The reading of the paper, and the conversation to which it gave rise, being concluded, Capt. Grover read some portions of letters he had received, still further corroborating the satisfactory intelligence of the existence and safety of Col. Stoddart and Capt. Conolly.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

Feb. 9.—Mr. Grove, "On the progress made in the application of electricity as a motive power." His object was to review the various applications of the electro-magnetic force which have been made since its first discovery by Oersted in 1819, and first application to actual rotary motion by Faraday. After explaining and illustrating by many novel experiments the character and direction of the force exercised by voltaic currents upon magnets, Mr. Grove pointed out three definite ramifications of the force which different experimentalists had sought to apply to the practical production of mecha-nical motion:—1. The immediate tangential or deflective power of the current which is shewn in the ordinary galvanometer, where a magnet is deflected by a stationary wire affected by a voltaic current, and in the revolving wheel of Barlow, where the radii are deflected and revolve by the influence of a stationary magnet. 2. What is called the suspension principle, where powerful stationary electro-magnets are made to attract pieces of soft iron placed in the periphery of a wheel. As each piece ar-rives opposite the magnet the voltaic current is interrupted by the revolution of the wheel itself, and this passes on until the next piece comes within the influence of the magnet, which being re-electrised, again attracts, and so on in rotation. 3. The principle of inversion of polarity, first introduced by Dr. Ritchie. In this two sets of magnets are employed, the one set stationary and the other rotary; the poles of the last being alternately changed by inver-sion of the voltaic current, the attractions of the two opposite poles of powerful magnets are rendered available.

Beautiful working-models of the application of the several principles were exhibited, most of them representing patented machinery.
Mr. Grove then entered upon the statistics

of expense of electro-magnetic machines. It appears from the experiments of Dr. Botto of Turin, that the consumption of 45 lbs. of zinc is necessary to work a one-horse-power mag-netic machine for 24 hours. Dr. Botto worked with Mr. Grove's battery, against which, although admitted to be by far most powerful, and equal in constancy to any other form, a general notion prevails that it is expensive. This, Mr. Grove says, is not the case, and gave his reasons as follows :-- to contrast the current cost of the nitric acid on Grove's battery with the apparently cheapest form, namely, a bat-tery charged with dilute sulphuric acid only: this latter, to overcome a given resistance, say to decompose an equivalent of water, requires a series of at least three cells, while only one of the nitric acid battery is requisite. Hence we have in the first, three equivalents of zinc and three of sulphuric acid consumed; in the second, one of zinc, one of sulphuric acid, and one-third of nitric acid; for nitric acid

trifling expense. Excellent timber and a most of work. The calculation then becomes as useful liana are abundant, as are also provi-Chemical equivalent of zinc, 32. Chemical equivalent of nitric acid, 54. $54 \div 3 = 18$. 32: 18:: 45: 25:3. 45 lbs. of zinc, at 3d. = 11ε. 3d.

25·3 lbs. of real (i. e. 50·6 of commercial) nitric acid, at 6d. 1l. 5s. 7\d.

acid, at 6d. 11. 5s. 7\frac{1}{2}d.

11s. 3d. + 11. 5s. 7\frac{1}{2}d. = 11. 16s. 10\frac{1}{2}d., the expense of one-horse power for 24 hours.

In this the small expense of the sulphuric acid and minute waste of mercury are thrown out of the equation, as more than balanced by the salts formed during the action of the battery.

It is evident from this that the expense of electro-magnetic machines far exceeds that of steam: indeed, it could hardly be expected to be otherwise, as with the one we use for fuel manufactured materials, in the production of which coals, labour, &c., have been expended; in the other, coals and water are used directly. This is rather discouraging: but, at the same time, we must recollect that in magnetic motion nothing is wasted; when the machine stops, the consumption stops also; and Mr. Grove thinks that we should not so much direct our endeavours to rival steam, as to find out methods of application where steam cannot be applied. The telegraph is one of these, and probably some others will be found; at all events, the idea that so much ingenuity, labour, and perseverance, should have been applied and should have marched with rapid strides in vain. is contradicted by the whole history of science ; and though it may not be very easy to point out the exact where, when, and how, of its success, still, considering the enormous progress of electro-magnetic applications made within the last few years, there is every ground for hopefulness as to its ultimate success.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

Feb. 14. - Mr. G. Moore in the chair. Mr. Heaton continued his experiments (see Lit. Gaz. No. 1411) illustrative of the principal cause of the rocking motion of railway engines and carriages. The results shewed that due al-lowance should be made for the momentum of the piston, piston-rod, and slide-gearing of a locomotive engine, and particularly that a great loss of power is sustained by the wheels being heavy-sided.—Mr. Martin explained his chirogymnast, which is intended to prepare the hand for playing on all sorts of musical instruments, but in particular the piano-forte. It consists of a board 19 inches long by 12½ inches wide, and one inch thick, with brass slides, pivots, buttons, straps, ladders, &c. fixed in different parts, containing altogether eleven exercises.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 14 .- A paper was read, " On Mr. Pattinson's process for obtaining magnesia from mag-nesian limestone," by Mr. Morson. The magnesia is extracted from the magnesian limestone of Durham, a mineral containing from 44 to 48 per cent of carbonate of magnesia, combined principally with carbonate of lime and a small quantity of iron and silica, and is separated without the aid of any chemical agent not contained in itself, with the exception of heat. The limestone is first placed in close iron vessels, and calcined at a dull red heat; by which operation the contained magnesia is decomposed, and its carbonic acid driven off: the carbonate of lime united with it, requiring a much higher temperature for its decomposition, mus would not exceed a few hours; goods could having five equivalents of oxygen, three of much higher temperature for its decomposition, be transported with celerity and ease at a which are actually available, does three units remains unchanged. The calcined mass is next

placed in a strong closed iron vessel, mixed | with a large proportion of water; and the carbonic acid resulting from the calcination forced into it by a powerful pump, in the usual manner of preparing magnesia or other artificial mineral waters, by which process a large quantity of the magnesia alone is brought into solution, as the lime remains unacted on so long as magnesia is in excess. The saturated solution, containing fifteen grains in the fluid ounce, is now drawn off, and rapidly boiled, by which the carbonic acid is set free, and the magnesia deposited; and by employing a closed vessel for this purpose, the carbonic acid liberated could be re-employed. On a first impression it would appear that this process, however ingenious, could not be profitably employed, but such is not the case, and the proof is, that the product is offered at the usual price. It is, however, only possible to conduct it in such localities as contain the limestone, fuel, and good river water in abundance, and the neighbourhood of Gateshead, on the Tyne, is one of the places best adapted for the purpose, and where the specimen presented to the society was prepared. When broken, its fracture is conchoidal, and it in this resembles the native carbonate of India. A paper was also read "On spiritus ætheris nitrosi," by Mr. Alsop.

Transport of Ponderable Matter by the Electric Discharge.-The most extended experiments on this interesting subject have been recently published by Fusinieri, and transferred by De la Rive to the Archives de l'Electricité, to which we refer our readers for details. They shew, in the case of silver and copper for instance, that infinitely small particles of silver pass with an electric discharge from a silver ball, impinge and are deposited on the first surface of a copper disc interposed, other portions being carried through the copper without becoming alloyed, some of them remaining on the second surface of the copper, whence again the spark issues, and with it the rest of the silver, to any other receiving metal: the exits of the spark are marked with small cavities, which likewise exhibit evidence of having received particles of the opposed metal. And they tend to prove that ponderable matter, in a minutely divided state, is present in the electrical spark of the machine; that this matter passes in opposite directions; that it is in a state of fusion and incandescence; and that not only in a luminous, but in a non-luminous state, electricity, when traversing dense solid bodies, is accompanied by ponderable matter. This leads the author to the inquiry whether this force is to be attributed to substances other than ordinary bodies, or to a power that sensible bodies possess in themselves to produce electrical phenomena. Sig. Fusinieri holds the latter opinion.

PARIS LETTER.

Paris, Feb. 10, 1844. Academy of Sciences: sitting of 5th February .-M. Becquerel submitted several metalochromes and a memoir relating details of process. He thinks his new researches will render appli-cable to the arts the beautiful iridial colouring of metals by the deposition of the peroxide from the acetate or sugar of lead under electrical influence. [M. Gassiot extended this variety of electro-metallurgy to the production of innumerable patterns on steel, and, we think, considered it available to the arts; but we are not aware whether it has ever been practically tried in England .- Ed. L. G.]

M. Hallette exhibited a small model of an apparatus which he proposes as a substitute for

the air-valve in the atmospheric tube of such railways. It consists of two cylinders of wax-cloth stuffed or filled with air, and so placed opposite each other that the distance of their centres be less than the sum of their radii. The piston stock is to be between and to separate them, the two cylinders coming again into immediate contact by virtue of the elasticity of their contents. The plan is simple; but it has not yet been practically tested.

M. Galy-Cazalat also placed on the table for

examination and report a portable machine for weighing carriages. The apparatus is only about thirty centimetres long, and is a metallic box containing water communicating with a vertical tube of mercury. The upper side of the box is formed of a double plate, plain above and convex below. The pressure of one of the wheels passing over this box affects the mercury in the tube, to be noted according to a graduated scale.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

Oxford, Feb. 8. — The Rev. R. H. Kirby, M.A., of St. John's College, and J. Hogg, Esq., M.A., of St. Peter's College, Cambridge, were admitted ad eundem. The following degrees were conferred:—

Masters of Arts.—F. P. Phillips, Christ Church, grand compounder; J. H. A. Harries, Trin. College; Rev. A. G. Baxter, Worcester Coll; Rev. A. Burder, Magdalen Hall; Rev. A. J. Lowth, Exeter College; Rev. T. K. Chittenden, fellow of St. John's College.

Bachelors of Arts.—R. Wildbore, Brasenose College, Backelors of Arts.—R. Wildbore, Brasenose College, F. Howlett, Worcester College; C. B. Teesdale, W. P. Jones, Christ Ch.; W. C. Welsford, G. A. Wright, Exeter College; J. G. Wenham, demy of Magd. Coll.; A. De Butts, scholar, J. H. Reibey, Trinity College; E. R. Seymour, Oriel College; H. W. Hodgson, J. C. Hulme, Ballioi College.

Cambridge, Feb. 7. — The following degrees were conferred:—

Masters of Arts.—J. L. Hodgson, St. Peter's College; W. F. Chilcott, St. John's College; W. Mills, Queen's College.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.

Jan. 25 .- The following papers were read at the meeting by the secretary: -1. "Account of inscriptions at Delphi," transmitted from Athens by Sir G. Wilkinson, in a letter to Mr. Hamilton. These inscriptions are of the same general tenor as ten inscriptions from the walls of the lepóv of Apollo at Delphi, published by Col. Leake in Travels in Northern Greece, vol. ii.; but, with one exception, are unknown in England, nor is any one of them, with the same exception, to be found in Boeckh's Corpus Inscriptionum Gracarum. As far as they are yet known, they are confined to two subjectsprivileges granted to foreigners by the Delphi; 2, the liberation of slaves. The inscriptions from Delphi hitherto published are chiefly of the second and third centuries before the Christian era, and shew that the customs to which they relate had prevailed through a long succession of ages: one of these documents, published by Boeckh, proves, by the name of the archon, Titus Flavius Pollianus, that the same usages also continued to exist two or three centuries later than the dates just mentioned. TI was observed by Col. Leake that Sir G. Wilkinson must have had no small difficulty in making these numerous transcripts, as the originals were engraved on parts of the temple liable to injury, on a kind of stone much more perishable than those marbles which have preserved so many Greek inscriptions: a similar observation is due to the labour employed by the colonel himself, in retranscribing Sir Gardner's hastily written copies in a clear cursive character.

2. " Observations on the πορίσματα of Eu-

clid, as described in the preface to the seventh book of the mathematical collections of Pappus Alexandrinus," by Mr. J. O. Halliwell. Some account of the class of geometrical propositions called "porisms" was, on a former occasion, submitted to the society by Mr. Halliwell, and has been printed in the 4th vol. of its Transactions. The present communication contained a more detailed account and stricter definition of πορίσματα, with notices of the light thrown on this obscure subject by Dr. R. Simson in the earlier part of the last century, by Lord Brougham in the Philosophical Transactions for 1798, by Mr. Gompertz in a tract published some years since, and, lastly, by the writer's friend M. Chasles, one of the ablest geometers of the day.

NEW SOCIETY: ARCHÆOLOGY.

WE have great pleasure in announcing the formation, under the most powerful and promising auspices, of a new and distinctly national society, to be called the " British Archaological Association for the encouragement and prosecution of researches into the arts and monuments of the early and middle ages, particularly in England." It is to be under the direction of a central committee, resident in London; * and among its Patrons are already ranked-the Marquis of Northampton, president of the Royal Society; the Earl of Aberdeen, K.T., president of the Society of Antiquaries; the Earl of Powis; Lord Albert Conyngham; the Lord Bishops of Durham, Salisbury, Norwich, and Lichfield; Lord Stanley of Alderly; Sir E. H. Alderson, baron of the Exchequer; Mr. Hallam, and Mr. W. R. Hamilton, vice-presidents of the Society of Antiquaries. - The object of this associa-tion has ever been so zealously advocated in the Literary Gazette, that we need not say the present undertaking has our most cordial concurrence and good wishes. The want of such an institution has long been a reproach to the country, and caused the irreparable loss of many a precious relic of antiquity. It is "to investigate, preserve, and illustrate all ancient monuments of the history, manners, customs, and arts of our forefathers, and in furtherance of the principles with which the Society of Antiquaries of London was established, to render available the researches of a numerous class of lovers of antiquity who are unconnected with that institution." The means proposed are, "1. By holding communication with correspondents throughout the kingdom, and with provincial antiquarian societies; as well as by direct intercourse with the Comité des Arts et Monuments of the ministry of public instruction in France, and with other similar associations on the continent instituted for the advancement of antiquarian science. 2. By holding frequent and regular meetings for the consideration and discussion of communications received from correspondents and any other persons. 3. By promoting careful observation and preservation of antiquities discovered in the progress of public works, such as railways, sewers, foundations of buildings, &c. 4. By encouraging individuals or associations in making researches and excavations, and affording them

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^{*} The members of this committee were, on Monday, Mr. T. Amyot, F.R.S.; Mr. C. F. Barnwell, M.A., F.R.S., F.S.A., late of the British Museum; Mr. E. Blore; Dr. W. Bromet, M.D.; the Rev. J. B. Deane, M.A.; Mr. C. L. Eastlake, R.A., F.R.S.; Sir H. Ellis; Mr. E. Hawkins; Mr. T. W. King, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant; Sir F. Madden, K.H.; Mr. T. J. Pettigrew, Teasurer; Mr. Ambrose Poynter; Mr. C. Roach Smith, honorary secretary; Mr. T. Stapleton; Mr. Albert Way; Sir R. Westmacott, R.A.; Mr. C. Winston; and Mr. Thomas Wright, M.A., F.S.A. corresponding member of the Institute of France, &c.

suggestions and co-operation. 5. By opposing | classical gusto. and preventing, as far as may be practicable, all injuries with which ancient national monuments of every description may from time to time be threatened. 6. By using every endeayour to spread abroad a correct taste for archæology, and a just appreciation of monuments of ancient art, so as ultimately to secure a general interest in their preservation. 7. By collecting accurate drawings, plans, and descriptions of ancient national monuments, and, by means of correspondents, preserving authentic memorials of all antiquities which may from time to time be brought to light. 8. By establishing a journal devoted exclusively to the objects of the association, as a means of spreading antiquarian information and maintaining a constant communication with all persons interested in such pursuits. 9. By taking every occasion which may present itself to solicit the attention of the government to the conservation of our national monuments, and to the other objects of the association."—Exertions are being made to issue the first No. of The British Archaeological Quarterly Journal, which will be a record of all the proceedings, towards the end of March. We learn that about five hundred members in town and country are already en-

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onday, M.A., Mr. E. Deane, I. Ellis;

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rt Way; and Mr. member

In connexion with this society, we understand it is proposed to hold, at appointed times, a Historical Congress, something after the man-ner of the British Association. The members will be invited to meet at a place remarkable for its historical monuments, and other objects of antiquity; and we believe that Canterbury or Winchester will be fixed upon for the first assembly. We can imagine nothing more pleasing and instructive than such a design.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK :-

Friday.-Royal Institution, 81/2 P.M.; Philological,

Saturday. — Royal Botanic, 4 P.M.; Westminster Medical, 8 P.M.

FINE ARTS.

Royal Academy .- On Saturday last, Mr. J. Prescott Knight was elected an academician, in the room of the late Mr. Henry Thomson.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

No. 171. J. Hollins, A.R.A .- A sweet conception of the morning break in the scene be-tween Romeo and Juliet. The expression of both is in fine harmony with the text; and the tenderness and necessity of the parting is pro-claimed by the severing clouds in the eastern

sky.
No. 181. W. Boxall.—An ancient saint, and painted with a genuine feeling for ancient art, as practised in the best schools of Italy.

No. 188. The Interior of St. Peter's, Rome. J. Scarlet Davis.—An elaborate and highly successful work. The architectural parts are in a fine clear tone, detailed, yet spacious; and the human figures on the floor are disposed with excellent effect, subordinate to, but aiding the general design. It is seldom we see productions of this class in our exhibitions.

No. 201. The Italian Mother. W. Salter .-A charming composition, executed with real picted.

classical gusto. The group consists of the mother and two boys, all so full of feeling that we do not know which we admire most. The disposition and turn of the figures are replete with artistical grace; but still they are as true to nature as to the refined in art. The colour-ing, too, is rich and harmonious: in short, it is a delightful cabinet picture.

No. 220. The Players' Reception of the Author.

D. Maclisc, R.A.—Exhibited at the Royal Academy, and one among its most justly attractive works. We are ashamed to see it again on any walls but those of a noble or wealthy owner! Variety of character, sparkling execution, the story of authorship and playership told most admirably, and the rich accessories painted in a style never surpassed-and yet on the painter's hands! Alas for the patronage of our native school, either by individuals or unions!

No. 242. The Spectator's Club. A. Morton. -Together with 81, Spinning a Yarn, and 252, The Boatswain (two clever and humorous little pieces of naval portraiture), reflects much credit on the talents of the artist. All are carefully painted, with due attention to minutiæ, whilst the characteristics of the dramatis personæ of the club (seen before) are well studied and sigficantly expressed.

No. 257. Dinner-time in the Refectory of a Convent at Florence. S. A. Hart, R.A.-We cannot but regret, also, to witness such a performance as this in a second exhibition. No. 101, at San Lorenzo, Naples, is another able production, by the same; about half the size of the former.

No. 271. John Knox, &c. J. P. Knight, the new R.A., and exhibited last year, when we spoke of it as unequal in point of art; parts of it being as fine as we could wish, and others, in our opinion, rather forced and exaggerated.

It was still well worthy of a purchaser.

No. 283. Christ and the Woman of Samaria. J. R. Herbert, A.R.A.-We are sorry to enumerate this in the same catalogue of unsold works. It also deserved a better fortune.

No. 272. Alonzo the Brave and the Fair Imogene. W. S. P. Henderson .- A curious thing in three compartments, representing the vow, the farewell, and the ghostly bridal of these romantic personages. The contrasts are well imagined. No. 338. A Bosom Friend, by the

Same, is also fanciful and pleasing.

Nos. 9, 96, 348, 356. J. Wilson.—All but the third, Scotch views, of picturesque beauty, and extremely natural. 348 is "on the coast of Normandy." very spirited, and the water irreproachable.

No. 351. Scene from the Merry Wives of Wind-sor. W. P. Frith.—Displays great talent for dramatic subjects. Though so familiar from endless repetition, we have here the fat knight, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Page, Sweet Anne, and Slender, painted in a very arch and comic manner. Falstaff kissing Mrs. Ford is excellent. The countenances are all good, the costume pictorial, and the colouring highly deserving of

No. 367. Naomi and her daughters-in-law Ruth and Orpah; 389. Hagar and Ishmael. H. O'Neil .- Both among the purest and touching pieces in these rooms. The first possesses the greatest interest, and is the best painted. The group of three females, tried by various emotions, but all distressed, is a masterly composition, and naturally affecting. Their separaprospect. The calm sorrow of Naomi, and the pathos of the younger pair, are feelingly de-

No. 380. Napoleon musing at St. Helena. B. R. Haydon. A grand idea, somewhat altered from Mr. Haydon's first design; and painted on a large scale, with all his vigour. 350. The theroine of Saragossa, by the same; and also redolent of genius, though of a wild and irregular kind. Mr. Haydon has done much for the fine arts of England, though he does not at all times succeed in executing his imaginations

to the full extent of their mental range. No. 396. The Highland Coronach. M'Ian .- A striking and almost dreadful Highland tragedy, painted in an exceedingly forci-ble manner. The dead, the bewailing, and the vengeance-vowers, are portrayed on the dark and dreary heath with sad and terrible fidelity.

No. 355. The Pet of the Tribe, by Mrs. M'Ian, should have been placed before; but we were more struck by the violent than charmed by the sweet and playful. The latter is neverthe-less an honour to Mrs. M'Ian's pencil—a beautiful picture.

No. 407. Solomon Eagle, during the Plague, exhorting the People. P. F. Poole.—Is another of the non-chosen pieces from the last R.A. exhibition. Strange, when we remember the crowds who surrounded it day after day, and the deserved eulogies pronounced upon it by

Monument to Sir W. Scott .- This tribute to the memory of their great country man still languishes for a sufficiency of subscription. Nearly 3000l. is wanted. At a meeting on Monday week, however, attended by many noble and distinguished Scotsmen, it was resolved to reanimate the appeal, and in effect upwards of 500% was subscribed on the spot. We are inclined to think that if the design had been brought before the public with spirit and discrimination in the first instance, this measure would never have been needed; but there was some penny wisdom which cramped the affair, and contracted the returns. It is, however, so national (for what Briton has not Scott delighted?), that we trust it will now be promptly and effectually supported.

The Statue of Sir C. Forbes, in marble, by Chantrey, subscribed for by the natives, has just been set up at the entrance to the Townhall, near the landing - place from the stair. The niche facing it requires only to be filled up to produce a peculiarly striking effect on the visitor to the Town-hall or library. Sir John Malcolm is in the centre, Sir C. Forbes on the right, and, as yet, a blank on the left, which will, we believe, be speedily supplied by the statue of the Hon. Mount Stuart Elphinstone. We trust, when this arrangement is completed, Government will set about removing the statue of Lord Cornwallis from its place of secrecy and defilement under the stone hood which shelters it on Bombay Green, and finding for it a place of shelter under the roof of the Town - hall. At present, not only is a beautiful piece of sta-tuary literally buried, but the monument raised by the inhabitants of Bombay to a statesman and warrior of renown is defiled and insulted by being made the subject of Hindoo worship. Let any one walk through the green, and see the dozens and dozens of cocoanut shells strewed about it, with the natives around doing homage, and he will see that we have been making ourselves ministers to the practice of the vilest idolatry! We marvel, by the way, that the simidolatry! We marve, by the way, that the ship-ple and beautiful art of casting in plaster has never reached Bombay. Perfect full-size busts of Lord Byron, Sir Walter Scott, and other distinguished individuals, are sold in Europe in any quantity for five shillings a piece. What

could be more desirable than to have copies of the admirable statues which we have referred to above, or, at all events, heads or busts, for the decoration of our gardens, pleasure-grounds, and larger dwelling-places? It would at once be the means of rendering additional homage to greatness, and of obtaining the most durable species of ornament. There are at present exhibiting in the lobby of the Town-hall, close by the statues, a set of beautiful landscape paintings, partly in oil, partly in water-colours, by Mr. Tennant.—Bombay Times, Dec. 16.

Portrait of Columbus .- Among the pictures belonging to the ancient family of Rawdon, recently acquired by Mr. Cribb, the picture-dealer, on the demise of the last of the race, has been discovered an original portrait of the celebrated Columbus. It represents him in a black dress, with white plaited ruff, and similar bands round the wrists. He is of manly carriage and noble presence, such as he is described by his son in Mr. Prescott's excellent history; the likeness, indeed, agreeing in an extraordinary manner with that description, except that the hair of the head is black, whilst that of the beard is red, as stated in the account referred to. It is, however, evident that some meddler has injudiciously tried his hand on improving the former, and that the black hair was no part of the original. The countenance has the aquiline nose and fresh colour ascribed to Columbus; and his name is on the upper left corner of the picture, picked out clearly before the varnish was applied, and contemporaneously with the painting. The frame is a magnificent specimen of the arts at the end of the 16th century, viz. 1590; and bears the arms of Columbus and some other remarkable emblems on the centre above the head. From genealogical inquiries into the rank and condition of the wealthy mercantile branches of the Rawdons, it seems that they were very likely persons to possess such a work as this. We have only to add, that it is a fine Titianlooking production. It will, we presume, find its way to the royal or national collection; as there can be little or no doubt of its authen-

Life, its Ups and Downs. By Alfred Crowquill. Engraved by H. Blundell.

This is a singular performance, of which we can furnish no idea by description. The hint is suggested by Shakspere's seven ages, but is doubled, and varied in a very fanciful manner. The upper row of figures, upon the scroll, re-present boyhood in chase of a butterfly, youth in puppy dress, love-making, soldiering, feasting, gluttony, and gratified ambition. These are the UPS of life, but the DOWNS are seen in the results below. A pedagogue with a rod awaits the urchin sport; a long tailor's bill and perhaps a capias the dandy's strut; a squalling brat at midnight the lover's courtship; a wooden leg, crutches, and a broken skull, the warrior's daring; gout the feaster's, doctoring the glutton's, and death the titled courtier's careers. Intermediately are symbols of the characters, such as a bauble, peacock, Cupid, pig at its trough, &c., and the whole story composed and told in a truly expressive, humorous, and original style. Its lessons of life, so drolly yet so strikingly illustrated, must make it a very popular favourite with high and low.

Leaves from the Book of Nature. Part II. Edinburgh, Lizars.

FULLY maintaining the character of the first fasciculus (see Lit. Gaz., No. 1410): the parrots Dufey came next, but he died at Jidda; then

in this Part are very brilliant, and so are the British birds of prey. The felis tribe, and but-terflies, and fishes of Guiana, are equally good; and the latter very curious.

THE DRAMA.

Her Majesty's Theatre .- Mr. Lumley's programme for the season, to open in the first week of March, shews continued enterprise and anxiety to procure adequate novelty and gratification for the public patronage. Mdlle. Margheretta Farante is the most promising débutante; and we have also Grisi and Persiani. Sigs. Corelli and Felice are likewise new, and conjoined with Mario, Fornasari, Lablache, and F. Lablache. For the ballet there are Carlotta Grisi, Cerito, F. Elssler, and Guy Stephan, and some half-dozen first appearances, — perhaps Taglioni. Persiani, new opera La Fantasma, Ricci's Corado d'Altumura from Paris and Milan, and an entire novelty, Don Carlos, by M. Costa, are promised. Herold's Zampa opens the campaign; and a new grand ballet, Jeanne d' Arc, will follow in due time.

Covent Garden, nearing its close, has produced the Destruction of Pompeii, a musical il-lustration of the fate of that unhappy city, from its joyous scenes to its overthrow, with great

Princess's .- Bounce, or the Ojibbeways, a broad farce, has been brought out here, and very successfully acted.

The Adelphi .- A burlesque of Richard III. has been produced here-the hero by Wright, who imitates Kean excellently well, and fills the house with laughter.

Strand .- Here Dickens's Christmas Carol has been dramatised with much success. It is a very pleasing and effective representation, and well acted throughout. There is, however, to us one blemish in the arrangement of the stagestory, namely the introduction at the end of the early love of Scrooge. One scene more in Christmas past, Ellen Williams and her family, would have obviated this, been in accordance with the Carol, and the finale would be infinitely better without her return. As we have said above, every part is filled so as to excite the interest of the audience. Mr. G. Bennett's Scrooge, Mr. Attwood's Cratchit, Mr. Roberts's Fred Pleasant, Mrs. Montgomery's Ellen Wil-liams, Miss Mercer's Spirit, and Mr. W. Searle's Old Joe Badger, are exceedingly well played, and the minor parts also are naturally portrayed. With pretty scenery, and capitally managed stage-effects, the Christmas Carol is fully worth a visit to the little Strand theatre. The playbill is a history in itself.

Astley's closes to-night.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

AFRICAN DISCOVERY.

resumé of African discovery has been so ably and interestingly given by a writer in the Court Journal, that we have been tempted to transfer the following particulars of his sketch into the Literary Gazette. After having gratified the fashionable and other readers of that journal (rising in popularity, desert, and reputation under a new proprietary), it may still be food to pleasure the tastes of many of our literary and scientific friends.

EARLY in the year 1841, Dr. Beke traced the route from Tajura, at the mouth of the Red Sea, to Ankobar and Angolalla, the capitals of the Eastern and Western Christian kingdom of Shoa. He ascertained that Messrs. Combes and Tamisier had been at Shoa, and were consequently the first European visitors since the time of the Portuguese Jesuits. Monsieur

the missionaries, Krapf and Isemberg; then Rochet d'Hericourt, and finally himself, being the first Englishman. Three other travellers had perished in the country, Mr. Airton, and Measrs. Fain and Kielmaer. Dr. Beke ascertained that Ankobar was 8200 feet above the sea, and Angolalla 8400. From Shoa, Dr. Beke travelled to Kok Fara, in the province of Gedem, never before visited by any European. On this excursion he determined the Waterished in 10° 11' N. in a swampy moor, between the Abai, or Blue Nile, and the Hawash, a river flowing to the eastward to the Mohammedan kingdom of Aussa, where it loses itself in a lake, supposed to be 150 miles in circumference. Dr. Beke describes the countries he traversed as varying in character from the most absolute sterility to the most luxuriant vegetation. He speaks of large plantations of capsicums and of excellent cotton, of rich corn-fields and fertile meadows, the whole studded with trees, and divided by hedge-rows of jasmine, roses, and honey-suckle.

M. Rochet d'Hericourt has published the de-

tails of his travels in Abyssinia in the Bulletin de la Société de Géographie de Paris.' He describes the character of the countries through which he passed, and represents the kingdom of Shoa as full of beautiful landscapes, decorated by a splendidly varied and vigorous vegetation. But his narrative wants astronomical positions, and other positive data. It is understood that this gentleman has again started for Abyssinia, supplied with the necessary instruments.

In 1842 the British mission, under Major Harris, penetrated from Tajura to Shoa, where they spent upwards of a year. The results of this mission have just been published under the title of 'Highlands of Æthiopia;' a work which has disappointed the expectations of many, as, amidst an unusual parade of language, containing little real information. The previous favourable reports of the kingdom of Shoa met, however, with confirmation; and the information gleaned by the naturalists of the party is very valuable.

Dr. Beke had obtained previous information regarding the existence southward of Abyssinia of a great river, called Go-jub, which flows into the Indian ocean; and Major Harris obtained further information regarding this great stream, which, as forming a line of water-communication with the interior, may ultimately be turned to good account, is an object of considerable importance. It is represented as being three miles broad, and navigated by large canoes, and is supposed to be the same as the Zebée of the missionary Antonio Fernandez.

Major Harris also heard of a hitherto unknown Christian population, having a powerful monarch at its head, south of Kaffa, and designated as Susa; and it is remarkable that in the seventh century the knowledge of Æthiopia acquired by Cosmas Indoplustes reached beyond the Agows to a great nation in the interior, called Sasou.

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Messrs. Antoine d'Abbadie and Lesevre were labouring at the same time in other parts of Abyssinia. They have both communicated many interesting notices to the journals of Paris and of this country. M. Lefevre reported particularly on the nature of the commerce and character of the people on the Bahrel-Azrek, or Blue Nile, and the district of Bertha, lying between that river and the Tu-mat, one of its tributaries. M. d'Abbadie, when last heard of, was at Adowa, engaged in compiling a dictionary of the Hamtonga, or Agow language, which already contained 1400 words. An English traveller of the name of

Bell had arrived in the month of April at Adowa, whence it is said he continued his journey inland. The German naturalist Schimpter was also with M. d'Abbadie.

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Messrs. Ferret and Galanier, of the French Etat Major, have also lately returned from a voyage into Abyssinia, whither they had been sent by the minister of war; they are said to sent by the minister of war; they are said to have brought with them several maps of the country. Messrs. Krapf and Sapeto have also returned from Abyssinia—the former after a residence of three years. M. Blondel, Belgian consul-general in Egypt, who had undertaken a journey into Abyssinia, had been detained prisoner in that country, but was happily released by the exertions in his behalf of the nash a of Egypt.

pasha of Egypt.

Mehemet Ali has fitted out in modern times two expeditions for the exploration of the Bahrel-Abiadh, or White Nile. The first, under the conduct of Selim Binsbashi, left Khartum on the 17th of November, 1839, and ascended the stream for seventy-two days. In this expedition the party ascended the river to the sixth parallel of north latitude. The second expedition was accompanied by two Europeans, Messrs. Arnauld and Sabatier. They left Khar-tum on the 25th November, 1840, and ascended the White or Western Nile for a distance of 518 leagues from Khartum, and reached a spot in lat. 4º 42' N. The want of water at that season of the year prevented their further progress; but when the waters are high, the stream gress; but when the waters are night the stream may be navigated, it is said, as far as the third parallel of N. latitude. Arrived at their fur-thest, they yet saw no mountains; so that it would appear that the famed mountains of the moon do not exist in Central Africa, at least at the most distant sources of the Nile.

In the dominion of the Behrs, the king's palace is described as being on the waters, and as only to be approached by swimming. His guards are two battalions of women, armed with spears and bucklers, and his ministers never enter the palace but when the king is supposed to be dangerously ill, when it becomes their duty to strangle him, that he may not die a natural death, like the vilest of his subjects.

Besides M. Rochet d'Hericourt, who has

returned to his former field of exploration, Major Harris has offered his services to return to Shoa, and Baron de Wrede, a Frenchman, is also about to proceed to Shoa by Tagura and Houssa, or Aussa, following the Hawash. From Shoa he proposes to penetrate the country in a S. W. direction, in order to discover the sources of the White Nile and of the Tchadda, or Niger. which two latter do not appear to be so far from one another as was once supposed. The baron then proposes to explore the Quilimancy, into at Erzeroum a sheik of Bokhara, named Shah then proposes to explore the Quilimancy, into which, according to M'Queen's and Major Harris's views, the great river Go-jub empties itself; the united rivers flowing into the sea by several mouths near Patta: but this is contradicted by others, who, giving to the Quilimancy its apparently correct orthography, of Kilimaji, identify that river with the Kilifi. The baron hopes thence to return by the Mohammedan kingdom of Hurrar and the slave-trading Barbera. If only a part of this vast project be successfully executed, it will be a great deal; and considering what we have learned of the fine climate, productive lands, and populous rise every reason to suppose that the same exists to a certain degree, even if there are not mountains, at the sources of the Blue Nile, there is every reason to suppose that the same exists to a certain degree, even if there are not mountains, at the sources of the White Nile, and of the Tchadda. From a year and a half's observation, the British Mission never found Shoa so hot nor so cold as Great Britain. Beyond

Shoa, and between that kingdom and the sources of the White Nile, the baron may visit the people called Shats, the Christian kingdom of Susa, or Sagou, the river Anquer, and the larger river Maleg,—probably the most distant tributaries to the Blue Nile; and thus there is every reason to hope, from any one taking such a line of route, for a proximate acquaintance with the great features and outlines of the geography of Central Africa.

Mr. Oastler .- The liberation of Mr. Oastler is a circumstance which ought to gratify every friend of humanity and every genuine Christian. The imprisonment of any man for three years for a simple debt, which he had been rendered unable to pay (whilst horrid crimes suffer what are called, and are, the heavy penalties of one, two, and in some parts of the island we believe, three, years' incarceration), is such a breach of moral principle, that it is impossible to think or speak of its existence without wonder and disgust. He was greeted with an ovation by Lord Feversham, Mr. Rashleigh, M.P., Mr. Ferrand, M.P., Mr. Walter, and other friends of the cause in which he has wrought and suffered; but what can repay a man for three years of his life doomed to the misery of a prison? We enter not into the personal animosities or party feelings of the case, but look only upon its innate worthlessness and cruel injustice.

VARIETIES.

Colonel Stoddart and Captain Conolly. - We stopped the press last week for the gratifica-tion of announcing in the Literary Gazette, exclusively, the substance of the latest accounts from Dr. Wolff, which inspire more of hope than any hitherto received. Since then the following more detailed particulars have been communicated by Captain Grover to the news-papers. On the 8th December, Dr. W. reached Ashkalah, and thus describes what took place: "At Ashkalah I found again three dervishes from Bokhara, who left Bokhara four months ago. I asked them whether they had seen at Bokhara some English travellers .- Bokharalee: 'Yes, and it was reported for some time that they had been killed, but there was no truth in it; but one of them came from Kokan, with whom the king of Bokhara was angry, believing that he did assist the king of Kokan, and therefore put both the tall and short Engand therefore put both the tail and snort Eng-lishman into prison, but let them out after some time, and they now teach the soldiers of Bokhara the European exercise." Dr. Wolff gives the names and places of abode of these dervishes in Bokhara, and further states, that at Erzeroum a sheik of Bokhara, named Shah Jemand Addeen, of the family of Nakshbanchi,

The New Royal Exchange will soon be opened The New Royal Exchange will soon be opened to view from the Poultry and Cheapside, as the large block of buildings in the way (the negotiation for the removal of which has been attended with some difficulty) are at last to be sold to the highest bidder. The Wellington statue (Chantrey's) is, we believe, likely to be erected nearer the Mansion-house, and its incurrently will are above the last has been at the 18th auguration will probably take place on the 18th of June next—the day of Waterloo.

Artesian Wells.—A question is mooted whether the boring of Artesian wells in the neighbourhood of Charing Cross will have the effect of draining the supply of water from the upper level springs of the metropolis. We should have thought that their great depths would preclude the hazard of this evil.

Fires .- A Mr. Quick has recently tried experiments for the extinction of fires by attaching hose or other pipes with branches to the plugs and mains laid down in the streets, whence the water will be thrown up by its own pressure without the aid of fire-engines.

The Faye Comet.—Mr. J. R. Hind, of Green-wich, writes to the Times, giving the following elements for the dimension as those on which the ellipse depends, and agreeing closely with the earlier observations of Dr. Goldschmidt:

Logarithm of semi-axis major . . . 0.5582124 Logarithm of semi-axis major . 0-30-8134 Logarithm of semi-axis minor . 0-4870372 Logarithm of the semi-parameter . 0-4158620 Logarithm distance in perihelion . 0-2315531 Angle of eccentricity! . 31° 54′ 52°15′ Period of sidereal revolution, 2511 403 days, or 6 years 11 months.

The comet may therefore be expected to return at the latter end of the year 1850. It has been supposed that the present comet is identical with that of 1770, whose elements have been changed by the disturbing influence of Jupiter at the aphelion.

The annual Association in Italy is appointed for the 12th of September at Milan.

To prevent Fire acting on Wood.—Recommended a strong solution of plaster of Paris, or soda: the first is best. In America, where wood is so universally used, this would be of incalculable benefit. Please to try it, if not confident of its great power in preventing burn-ing .- From a Correspondent.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

Mr. W. H. Bartlett announces an illustrated volume on the subject of Jerusalem, descriptive of the present state of the Holy City, the result of Mr. Bartlett's personal visit in the summer of 1843.

Les Trois Royaumes announced by M. le Vicomte d'Arlincourt comprises this author's lucubrations "en Angleterre, en Irlande, et en Ecosse." Réport (interested!) speaks highly of its piquancy.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

cal and Statistical, by G. L. Smyth, Part I. 8vo, 3z.—
Shakespeare's Works, by J. P. Collier, Vol. I. The
Life, &c., 8vo, 13z.—The Family Physician, fep. 2z.—
Electrical Experiments, by G. Francis, F. L. S., 8vo, 3z.
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Affection to Young Persons, 12mo, 4z.—Insects and
Reptiles, with their Uses to Man, sm. 4to, 3z. 6d. cloth.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1844.

Feb.					The	rmo	mete	r.	Barometer.				
	Thursday .			1	From	27	to	35	29.65	to	29.68		
	Friday			2	,,	26		33	29.28		29-24		
	Saturday .			3		25		36	29.63		29.64		
	Sunday			4		28		34	29.44		29 25		
	Monday			5	**	35		24	29.20		29.21		
	Tuesday			6	,,,	22		37	29.26		29.27		
	Wednesda	y		7	33	27		41	29.05		58.50		

Wind on the 1st, N.W.; 2d, N.W., E., and E. by S.; 3d, N.; 4th, S. by W. and S.; 5th, N.W.; 6th, S.W.; 7th, S. by E. and S.W. The 1st, clear; 2d, snowing generally during the day; 3d, generally clear; 4th, snowing generally; 5th and 6th, generally clear; 7th. overcast, with rain.

Edmonton. Charles Henry Adams.

51° 37′ 32″ north. 3 51 west of Greenwich. Latitude, Longitude,

DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME. [This table shews the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

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Feb.	17		13	14	20.7	Feb.	21		12	13	58.8
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	19		-	14	11.1	1	23		_	13	43.9
	90		_	14	5.3	1					

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Discovery of the Egyptian Inscription, which we described in our last Gazette, has created a strong sensation on the continent. France and Germany ring with it, and we doubt not the same effect will be produced in Italy.

We are sorry we cannot use up Shaugh's favour.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

To Book Societies and Circulating Libraries.

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